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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 13 Jun

NC2106093495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 June edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Mufti, Others Deny Approving Egyptian Doctor's Flogging
2. Al-Azhar Shaykh's Ruling on Circumcision Receives Support
3. Imams Appointed Religious Supervisors at Summer Camps
4. Editorial on Need To Adhere to Koran, Prophetic Tradition
5. Al-Azhar Professor Views Masons' Aims, Rotary Clubs
6. Islamic Scholar on Secularism, 'Islamic Awakening'

MUFTI, OTHERS DENY APPROVING EGYPTIAN DOCTOR'S FLOGGING

Pages 1 and 3 feature an 800-word report and interviews with Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, al-Azhar University Vice President Dr.Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, the head of al-Azhar's Religious Decrees Committee, and dean of the Shari'ah and Law College in Tanta. The interviewees deny a SAUDI NEWS AGENCY report that the mufti has approved the flogging of an Egyptian doctor by Saudi authorities on defamation charges after the doctor accused a Saudi school teacher of raping his son.

In a statement to 'AQIDATI, the mufti says: "The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY asked me about the shari'ah's ruling on slander and my reply was within the bounds of the question proceeding from my position as the official mufti of Egypt. I did not approve or disapprove the Saudi statement because I have not seen the file of the case and was not certain that legal procedures were applied."

Al-Azhar University's vice president, head of al-Azhar's Religious Decrees Committee, and the dean of the Tanta College of Shari'ah and Law also deny Saudi newspaper's reports that they supported the flogging of the Egyptian doctor.

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH'S RULING ON CIRCUMCISION RECEIVES SUPPORT

A 210-word, unattributed report on page 1 says a group of female doctors have sided with al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq in a law suit filed against him by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization over his ruling on circumcision. The report adds that a group of women and lawyers submitted a memorandum to the 'Abidin Court "strongly" defending the shaykh's ruling. The report notes that the memorandum "emphasized" that the human rights organization's claim about the ruling on circumcision "is mere fabrication" and that charging al-Azhar's shaykh with ignorance is ridiculous.

IMAMS APPOINTED RELIGIOUS SUPERVISORS AT SUMMER CAMPS

An unattributed 350-word report on page 2 says the Higher Council of Youths and Sports has decided to seek the help of 250 imams from the Awqaf Ministry to work as religious supervisors at the council's camps during summer. The report adds that the council also decided to appoint 400 senior students of al-Azhar colleges to work as religious guides at youth centers in the Republic.

EDITORIAL ON NEED TO ADHERE TO KORAN, PROPHETIC TRADITION

Page 3 runs a 300-word editorial on the Muslims' situation. It says that when Muslims deviated from their ancestors' "righteous path which adopted the holy Koran as a way of life in their conduct and dealings with each other and with the others who disagreed with them on religion," they lost their glory, dignity, and prestige.

The editorial adds that the Islamic nation has "regrettably" engaged in conflicts and disputes seeking "fleeting earthly interests." This, it goes on, encouraged "the others" to slight them and trespass on their rights.

The editorial says "numerous stands have revealed our weakness" and the reason is because "we have shunned our God's book and ignored our Prophet's tradition."

AL-AZHAR PROFESSOR VIEWS MASONS' AIMS, ROTARY CLUBS

In an approximately 800-word article on page 6 of 'AQIDATI, Dr. Salih Hasan al-Maslut, a history professor at al-Azhar University, discuses the history, foundation, and aims of the Masons.

He says the Masons is a Jewish international organization seeking to destroy non-Jewish nations and governments. The Masons' ultimate goal is to rebuild Solomon's Temple over the ruins of al-Aqsa Mosque in "occupied" Jerusalem, "hoist the banner of Israel, and establish a global Jewish government as defined by the Zionists' protocols," he adds.

The professor notes that the Jews "succeeded in founding the Masons under the guise of human, not religious or national, brotherhood to obliterate religion and destroy nationalist sentiment."

He says the Masons destroy religious faith, claiming that religions are the cause of a nation's backwardness.

He adds: "The Masons destroy Christian and Muslim religious and nationalist sentiment. These poor people do not know that religious and racist feeling among the Jews is the strongest. This feeling is not only in defense of their existence but also aims to humiliate Christian and Islamic nations."

The author goes on: "The Jews were not content with just clandestine Masons, but also established another separate public body to carry out some of the Masons' tasks also under the guise of human brotherhood. They called this the Rotary clubs. The Rotary clubs' association with Masons and Zionism is firm and well-established."

He says the dissolution of the Rotary clubs in Egypt is "a religious and nationalist demand" which will not cause catastrophe for Egypt, but the presence of these clubs in Egypt is "itself the catastrophe." Concluding his article, the professor urges "every Egyptian who believes in his faith and homeland" to stay away from these and similar "suspect" clubs.

ISLAMIC SCHOLAR ON SECULARISM, 'ISLAMIC AWAKENING'

'AQIDATI runs on pages 14 and 15 an approximately 2,000-word interview with "Islamic scholar and propagators" Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, who expresses his views on Islam, secularism, Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem, and other issues.

Replying to a question, he says: "As regards society in general, I hope everyone knows that the attack on Islam or Islamic figures intensifies only when the enemies of Islam find their presence weak and feel that Islam is about to overrun them. Their enmity to Islam is spontaneous for self-defense."

He adds: "It is wrong for us to imagine that they have a plan to repair society. Secularism has been in charge of this society since the beginning of the century but only added to its failure, loss, perversion, and corruption. All the evils from which the society is complaining are the result of the application of secularism.

After discussing the ills of secularism, he says the genuine plan is the "Islamic plan to rectify society."

Answering a question on "Islamic awakening," he says: "I believe that the Islamic awakening will inevitably come to its senses after the stumbles caused by despair as a result of confusion and the folly of some people."

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Vow To Avenge Slain Leader

MM2306103495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Military Jihad Official Assassinated in Gaza; Al-Shaqaqi Accuses Israel, Threatens Revenge"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine accused Israel yesterday of assassinating Mahmud al-Khawajah, one of its prominent military leaders in the Gaza Strip. It threatened to take revenge.

Islamic Jihad Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Mahmud al-Khawajah, who was a military official in the movement, had been on the Israelis' wanted list for some time. And four days ago the Palestinian Authority arrested a person who had on him an assassination list; Mahmud al-Khawajah was top of this list."

Dr. al-Shaqaqi threatened revenge, saying: "Just as Hani al-'Abid's blood was a curse on the Israelis, Mahmud al-Khawajah's blood will be even a stronger and tougher curse. This crime will not escape Islamic Jihad's revenge."

Dr. al-Shaqaqi added that "Palestine as a whole will become an arena for revenge for Mahmud al-Khawajah."

Asked whether he meant the self-rule areas, he said, "al-Khawajah was not killed in Tel Aviv, but in Gaza."

Al-Khawajah, 35, who is married and has a number of children, was assassinated yesterday morning at 0615 hours while leaving his home in al-Shati' camp in the Gaza Strip.

According to the Jihad secretary general and other officials in Gaza, a Peugeot car was waiting for al-Khawajah. The moment he left home, heading for his work in UNRWA, four masked men got out of the car and sprayed him with bullets from two directions, using guns fitted with silencers.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi attacked the Palestinian Authority, which condemned the incident, saying that it has launched an investigation into its circumstances. He accused it of indirectly participating in the operation by saying: "Our accusation against the Authority stems from its response to Zionist orders to disarm the mujahidin without providing any protection for them. It is leaving agents to move freely without any punishment. In this context the authority must shoulder its responsibility."

He added, "we know that when Hani al-'Abid's murderers were arrested, they were not brought to trial, while mujahidin are tried a few hours after their arrest — which encourages Mosad agents to continue their activities against the mujahidin in the Gaza Strip."

For its part, the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has condemned in a statement al-Khawajah's assassination, which it described as an ugly crime. It stressed that "retaliation against the crimes of the Zionist occupation is irrevocable." Hamas said that "the decision of our people and their heroic mujahidin to fight the Zionist occupation and to retaliate against its crimes is irrevocable until the occupation is driven away from our territory and holy places."

Angry Crowd Calls For Revenge

NC2206184995 Paris AFP in English
1705 GMT 22 Jun 95

[By Ezz Sa'id]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 22 (AFP) — An angry crowd of 3,000 people called for revenge "in the heart of Tel Aviv" as they took part in the funeral of an Islamic Jihad leader gunned down by masked men on Thursday [22 June].

The Jihad has blamed the killing of Mahmud al-Khawaja, 34, on the Israeli secret service, the Mosad.

Hundreds of Palestinian policemen and security officers watched the funeral procession as al-Khawaja's coffin draped in the green flag of Jihad was paraded through the streets of Gaza City.

The cortege left from the al-Shati' refugee camp where the shooting took place and passed through the city to the "martyrs' cemetery."

Marchers called for "vengeance in Israel in the heart of Tel Aviv." They also wrote slogans threatening the Jewish state with revenge on the walls of the Palestinian police headquarters.

"Rabin, expect a new Beit-Lid," wrote one young bearded man, alluding to a Jihad attack which killed 20 soldiers and a woman in January.

The mourners also attacked PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, shouting: "This is peace, 'Arafat, murders and assassinations."

Several leading members of the Jihad and the larger Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) attended the funeral including Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami, Ahmad Bahr and Nafiz 'Azzam.

Palestinian police chief Ghazi Jabali and the head of civilian defence placed wreaths on al-Khajawa's grave.

Al-Khawaja was gunned down by masked men as he was walking to work with the UN refugee programme UNWRA in the al-Shati' refugee camp, Jihad leaders in self-ruled Gaza City said.

The killing comes at a delicate time in negotiations between Israel and the PLO with only eight days left before a July 1 target date set by both sides for an agreement on extending autonomy.

Al-Khawaja was sprayed with 10 bullets as three men drove past him in the camp in a blue Peugeot 404. Two gunmen in the back seat fired pistols fitted with silencers hitting him in the head and the chest, witnesses said.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the murder as an act of "terrorism" and 'Arafat launched an immediate hunt for the gunmen.

In Damascus, the head of Jihad, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, accused Mosad and threatened to take revenge. His organisation would not "stand idle in face of this crime," he said.

"The Mosad this morning killed one of the most important leaders of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza," he told AFP.

There was no immediate Israeli response to the charges.

'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said: "President 'Arafat gave orders to search for the guilty men and the instigators of this act which the PLO leader said was criminal.

"Those who are guilty will have to serve as an example to others."

Al-Khawaja was jailed for four years during the seven-year intifadah which was launched in December 1987 and had also been placed in Israeli administrative detention for six months without trial.

A military leader of the Islamic Jihad, he was arrested twice by the Palestinian Authority. He was once held for 35 days and then again for eight.

The Islamic Jihad and Hamas are fiercely opposed to the autonomy accords between Israel and the PLO, and they have claimed most of the anti-Israeli attacks since the launch of autonomy in May 1994.

Jihad's al-Shaqaqi on al-Khawaja's Death

NC2206205395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of Islamic Jihad, "in Palestine," by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, you have stated that the Zionist entity is behind the assassination of martyr Mahmud al-Khawaja. What information and evidence do you have at your disposal on this matter?

[Al-Shaqaqi] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. Firstly, Mahmud al-Khawaja was one of the military leaders of the Islamic Jihad movement. He was recently on the Zionist enemy's wanted list. Four days ago, one of the Zionist enemy's agents was arrested in the Gaza Strip; he was carrying a list of some personalities to be assassinated. One of the most prominent names on the list was Mahmud al-Khawaja. Last week, some Authority units that we believe are linked to the Mosad were asking a lot of questions about the role of Mahmud al-Khawaja in the Islamic Jihad and the nature of his activities. Because of these facts and other things, we have absolutely no doubt that the Israeli Mosad committed this crime. We did warn against this crime some time ago.

[Correspondent] Doctor, could this assassination affect the Islamic Jihad's confrontation with the Zionist entity?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Firstly, all martyrs nourish the course of jihad. The same thing as happened with Hani 'Abid will happen with Mahmud al-Khawaja. Hani 'Abid's blood became a curse for the occupiers, and Mahmud al-Khawaja's blood will be an even stronger and tougher curse. They do not affect our course, but only increase its force and toughness. They also add to the reasons and justifications for continuing our fight.

[Correspondent] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, you announced that you do not want to participate in the forthcoming Palestinian elections. What is your view of these elections and what are your objections to them?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Firstly, these elections will be held under the Israeli yoke to elect a body that carries out the Israeli orders and the Oslo Agreement according to the letter, word, and stipulations of the Israelis. These elections do not give the Palestinian people any kind of sovereignty over their land or themselves. Therefore, they are merely a diversion or a game in the hands of the Zionist entity. We refuse to take part in this trivial theater piece. We will confront it by continuing our fight and armed jihad against the occupation.

[Correspondent] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, what is the role of the Islamic Jihad in the widespread popular strikes inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Shaqaqi] As you well know, most of the detainees in the Israeli prisons are from among the members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. They are the ones leading the strikes in the occupation's prisons. Hamas and Islamic Jihad support all the detainees on strike in all parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in their hunger strikes, sit-ins, and other actions. We are in solidarity with these mujahidin. The Islamic movement is playing an important role in what is happening today regarding the demonstrations of the detainees.

[Correspondent] Could you inform us of the latest developments in the Palestinian situation inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Firstly, the assassination of leader martyr Mahmud al-Khawaja crowns the terribly deteriorating security conditions inside the occupied territories. We know that the pitiful negotiations between the self-rule Authority and the Zionist enemy have reached a dead end. The enemy does not talk about 1 July as a sacred date any more, but says that it is not ready for the partial deployment set for this date. The Authority is suffering great confusion in the face of Israeli belligerence. At the same time, this Authority continues to track down, terrorize, and disarm the mujahidin. It allows all its organs be a tool in the hands of the Israeli Mosad. The worse part of it is that due to its weakness and the fact that it can be infiltrated easily, it ignores the activities of the agents on the streets and the positions they have gained inside the Authority. This has resulted in crimes like the assassination of martyr Mahmud al-Khawaja today. Security and the economy are in very bad shape. In addition, the deplorable negotiations with the Zionist enemy have reached a complete stalemate.

[Correspondent] We thank Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine movement.

[Al-Shaqaqi] Thank you.

Two 'Senior' Jericho Members Said To Quit Hamas

TA2206144095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members from Jericho who are considered moderate, have announced that they are suspending their activities. This was reported by Palestinian sources.

The two, Shaykh Shakir 'Amira and Muhammad Abu-Zina, decided to freeze their activities in view of disagreements within Hamas over the issue of continuing acts of terror against Israel and the extent of Hamas participation in the Palestinian regime and the elections in the territories. The two told their associates: "We will continue working as faithful Muslims outside the movement."

Fatah Warns of Intifadah if Prisoners Not Freed

TA2206183295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A leaflet signed by the Fatah Movement calls for reconsidering the resumption of the intifadah in the territories if all Palestinians prisoners are not released. In the meantime, the prisoners' hunger strike continues for the fifth consecutive day. A delegation of activists for the prisoners is currently meeting senior Palestinian leaders at Orient House now. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports live from Orient House:

[Yokhpaz] For the past several months, the Palestinian street has been critical of the local leadership for not doing enough to release the prisoners. 'Arafat has been defeated by the Israelis, they have been saying in the territories for quite some time. The date for concluding the negotiations is drawing near, and the prisoners are still in jails.

This evening, here at Orient House in East Jerusalem, the first official meeting is taking place between the representatives of the action committee for the prisoners' release and heads of the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank. Dozens prisoners' families gathered here today and sent their representative forward to read out a letter of request to Faysal al-Husayni and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad:

In the name of Allah, the compassionate and the merciful, we call on you, Brother Faysal al-Husayni, the letter says, to do everything possible to free our sons.

The security prisoners held in Israeli jails are continuing their hunger strike for the fifth consecutive day. The strike is not being absolutely observed, but the Prisons Authority says that more than 1,300 prisoners have joined it.

The struggle for the prisoners' release intensifies as 1 July draws nearer. A leaflet signed by the Fatah Movement was even passed out today in the territories calling for a possible resumption of the intifadah. The leaflet says that next week the Fatah strike forces will attack Israeli civilian and military cars with rocks as part of their struggle for the release of the prisoners.

Israel Said Taking 'Arbitary Measures' Against Detainees

JN2306083695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Arab detainees continue their hunger strike for the sixth consecutive day while the Israeli occupation prison authorities step up their arbitrary measures against the detainees.

In a message sent by the detainees in the al-Junayd central prison in Nabulus, they said that the occupation authorities have confiscated all electrical appliances such as radios and television sets to isolate the detainees from the outside world and prevent them from obtaining information on the sit-ins and other activities taking place in solidarity with the detainees within the framework of the battle of the empty stomachs.

The prison authorities also banned a delegation from the Palestinian prisoners committee from visiting the detainees in the al-Junayd prison, separated the cubs in al-Damun prison from the other detainees, and banned lawyers from visiting prisons.

The Ashqelon prison detainees joined the hunger strike yesterday. Relatives of detainees are now gathered near Ashqelon prison in an attempt to visit their sons. A state of tension prevails in the area due to the presence of a large number of policemen and Israeli occupation forces.

Fatah Official Says Syria Backs State Under PLO

JN2306084695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jun 95 p 23

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—QUDS PRESS—A member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council has said that he held a meeting with Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas during which they discussed various issues.

Brigadier General 'Izz-al-Din al-Sharif said that Talas stressed, during a bilateral meeting held in Damascus last week, Syria's support for the Palestinian people's efforts to establish a state on Palestinian land with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO. He noted that he also discussed with the Syrian official the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

Al-Sharif visited Damascus at the head of a delegation representing the Palestinian Union for War Veterans to take part in the seventh congress of the Arab Union for War Veterans and Victims. The congress was inaugurated by Lt. Gen. Talas in the presence of representatives from all Arab states except Iraq and Libya, which are subject to a comprehensive international embargo.

Al-Sharif told QUDS PRESS that he briefed Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority, on the details of his meeting with Lt. Gen. Talas. He said that he discussed other issues with Talas, but would not elaborate.

Syrian-PLO relations have been strained in the aftermath of the PLO's signing of the Declaration of Principles with the Israelis following secret talks in Oslo. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: No Date Set for Next Meeting With Rabin

JN2306121595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1114 GMT 23 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza from the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat performed Friday prayers at the al-'Abbas Mosque in the al-Rimal neighborhood in Gaza today.

Following the prayers, President 'Arafat said that no date has thus far been set for his next meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The president added that he was, however, ready to meet him.

In a related development, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat, said that this meeting should have been held more than a month ago. He reiterated that the meeting was contingent on achieving progress ahead of the 1 July deadline. Such progress would set the stage for such a meeting and contribute to the promotion of the peace process, Abu-Rudaynah noted.

Abu-Rudaynah commended the statements made by King Husayn of Jordan on the Jordanian-PLO relationship, in which he said that Jordan recognizes the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. He added that this epitomizes the profound and balanced relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

For his part, Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sirdanah, prayer leader and chief justice, underlined the issue of the prisoners and detainees. He asked Israel to unconditionally release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees. He also urged the Palestinian people to support the prisoners' just cause. He noted that the prisoners' issue must be accorded great attention by all forces.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, accompanied President 'Arafat to the Friday prayers. He was also accompanied by Muhammad Karim, Egyptian representative to the National Authority areas, and several figures and officials.

Sha'th Says Opposition Groups Causing Problems

AU2206125195 Vienna KURIER in German 22 Jun 95 p 5

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Tessa Szyszkowitz in Gaza "recently": "Revolution Without Romanticism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Szyszkowitz] Do you still think that 1 July, the day when the partial withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the Palestinian towns in the West Bank is to be finally decided, will be a day of success?

[Sha'th] The Israelis — even the moderate ones in the government — have mixed feelings. They know that only peace with the Palestinians will guarantee Israel's security in the long term. However, many of them do not want to pay the price for it. However, much has happened in the Arab world over the past few months: The Arab leaders will not want to lag behind the Egyptian peace treaty. In the end, Israel will have to return all the territories that it occupied in 1967: the Golan Heights to Syria, as well as the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem to us.

[Szyszkowitz] Can you understand Israel's need for security? After all, Islamic attackers also threaten their own politically moderate leadership.

[Sha'th] That is correct; the Palestinian opposition groups are causing problems for us, because they do not stick to the agreements. Therefore, we are negotiating with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. They should do without attacks until the end of the year so that we have an opportunity to implement the Oslo Agreement. If this does not work because the Israelis do not want to withdraw from the West Bank in the first place, then we have at least proven that the peace process did not fail because of us.

[Szyszkowitz] However, Hamas has announced on fliers that the attacks will continue. Should the Palestinian police act more rigorously?

[Sha'th] Even in countries that have an excellent and long tested police apparatus it is impossible to prevent all attacks. Egypt and Israel are also unable to keep the Islamists completely under control. The point is not just security measures but political compromises. We are just beginning to establish a state with the appropriate structures.

[Szyszkowitz] But these beginnings frustrate many Palestinians. In your ministry, the Planning Ministry, there are allegedly also mismanagement and corruption.

[Sha'th] Of course there is corruption in various fields. For instance in the police. But not like in Italy, where it is a national malaise. 'Arafat is just trying to satisfy the various interest groups. He must keep the balance between Israel and the Palestinians, between our people in exile and in Gaza, between the West Bank Palestinians and those in the autonomous territories. Mistakes are possible in this connection.

[Szyszkowitz] Some Palestinian intellectuals are already complaining that the dream of the first Arab democracy has failed after one year of autonomy. Is it necessary for the "balance" to impound critical newspapers?

[Sha'th] I can understand the intellectuals' frustration. They are observers of this process and no longer insiders. I do not want to make excuses for the problems, but one thing must be understood: Revolutions have never been a romantic matter.

Al-Shak'ah on Opposition to PA, Oslo Agreement

NC2206114595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
15 Jun 95 p 12

[Interview with Bassam al-Shak'ah, former elected mayor of Nabulus and secretary general of the Palestinian Grouping, by 'Imad Mukhtar, in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mukhtar] We heard of the birth of the Palestinian Grouping [PG] several months ago while you were in the occupied territories. Does your visit to Syria have anything to do with the PG's activities?

[Al-Shak'ah] The movement started in the occupied homeland. It was a national need to unite the opposition forces, that is, the 10 groups [opposed to the Oslo agreement]. It is natural for us to meet our brothers abroad to achieve the interaction among the groups that will create an authority that represents those inside and outside the territories. We have a single cause: a national, pan-Arab, Islamic, and international cause. We are eager to consult and unite efforts. The aim of the visit was to find a single authority and to coordinate on the highest level. I met all of them and the meetings were valuable. A joint statement was issued by the 10 groups supporting the PG in the occupied territories.

[Mukhtar] Did you meet with the Islamic forces? What is their view of your grouping?

[Al-Shak'ah] Yes. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic circles praised this stance. They are not against the grouping. But they are not in it. The dialogue between us continues and this makes us optimistic. There will be coordination on a high level until we merge.

[Mukhtar] How do you regard the Palestinian alliance and what is the plan for advancing the PG's cause?

[Al-Shak'ah] The opposition failure to agree on a strategy is paralyzing it and preventing the unification move from reaching the masses. But each group is acting on its own and they sometimes reach a minimal agreement on some points. We should not forget that this is the stage of the other authority [Palestinian Authority, PA]. There is now more serious dialogue over the issue of defending the Palestinian Charter. The establishment of the PG, of which I am the secretary general, could be declared. We will unite all the religious, national, and democratic movements and we will be one hand, because we say that any organization inside the territories will be prey to the destructive attacks, the occupation, and blackmail and any organization outside will lack the strength to wage the struggle in the field and will be a prisoner of foreign policies.

[Mukhtar] Will this grouping save the popular movement and draw up a plan for the people's action in all its social structures, that is, all the institutions, labor unions, and others?

[Al-Shak'ah] We are declaring a national, patriotic grouping that deals with all the sides. We address ourselves to the people so as to help qualified leaders to emerge from among the people. We are facing difficult tasks, because the groups are in a crisis caused when the masses were separated from politics.

We will draw up an effective mass program and undermine the saying that "Fatah is Palestine and that when Fatah was canceled Palestine was canceled too." We have our own saying, namely, that we will liberate the people's will from its usurpers and we will be with the masses. Everyone, especially the 10 groups, appreciates our stance. An understanding was reached following my meeting with these groups on a unified framework for mass action from inside the territories and from the diaspora. We will grow through our action.

[Mukhtar] How do you envision the future of the Palestinian self-rule? Where is it headed?

[Al-Shak'ah] It is heading nowhere. The Israeli enemy knows full well that it will not allow the Palestinians to establish an authority or a rule. In this, the Israelis proceed from their racist principles. They want to ensure that the Zionist movement and racial purity will be maintained. Having Jordanian trusteeship of the West Bank is the new trend. The self-rule is a Zionist plan aimed at isolating the Palestinian people from their cause; nullifying their sense of belonging to their land; and taking the Palestinian cause away from its human, Arab, Islamic, and international context. The Oslo agreement exempted Jordan from signing on behalf of the Palestinians, but the Jordanian option will return because this is actually the Zionist dream.

[Mukhtar] Is the intifadah now over, or will it return to play its leading role?

[Al-Shak'ah] The intifadah is the popular resistance against occupation. It was a rebellion against us before it was a revolution against occupation. The current situation gives our people a sense of clarity and continuity.

[Mukhtar] What do you think of the Oslo agreement a year after its signing? What is the situation on the ground?

[Al-Shak'ah] Everything in the Oslo agreement is negative, beginning with the establishment of the arrogant police force and ending with the daily practices. Regrettably, everything is being done by cooperation between Palestinian policemen and Israeli soldiers. The Oslo agreement promoted the Zionist program by facilitating acts such as the expansion of the settlement activity, the Judaization of Jerusalem, and the infiltration of the entire Arab world.

Freedom in the occupied territories was restricted when the Palestinian leadership transferred there. This hindered the work of all the [PLO] legislative and executive bodies. It turned the leadership into a monolithic, despotic authority engaged in oppressive security practices without considering the dignity of the people. The authority is now experiencing a deep financial crisis. The World Bank representative in Gaza confirmed this. He also said the PA budget is suffering because the number of police force personnel increased from 8,000 to 19,000. Israel approved forming security agencies such as the presidential guard force, the state security force, Force 17, and many other security agencies that do not serve our people.

[Mukhtar] What do the Palestinians in the occupied territories think of the Israel-Syria negotiations?

[Al-Shak'ah] No doubt, they are confident of the Syrian position. This stems from experience. Since the Madrid conference, the Syrian leadership adhered to national and pan-Arab constant principles concerning the Golan, the Palestinian cause, and south Lebanon.

The Syrian leadership takes credit for two positive points: continuing the Syrian position and coordinating with Lebanon based on adherence to the pan-Arab position. This is unlike the Oslo agreement between 'Arafat and Israel or the capitulatory Wadi al- 'Arabah agreement between Israel and Jordan.

[Mukhtar] You will face difficulties when you return to the occupied territories and begin political activity. What are your plans?

[Al-Shak'ah] Suffering is the real test for action to achieve objectives. We are committed to not clashing with the PA. We want to prevent a Palestinian civil war. The PA does not want this. I believe that various methods will be used to control our activity. But we are not afraid of opposition, a unified position by the opposition forces and activating the masses will curb PA practices.

Proliferation of New Parties Criticized

95AA0172A Umm al-Fahm SAWT AL-HAQQ WA-AL-HURRIYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 7

[Unattributed article: "Two Palestinian Scholars Say New Palestinian Parties and Organizations Striving To Penetrate Mainstream Palestinians"]

[Text] Report from Nabulus: from al-Najah University to the press.

Two Palestinian scholars said that the proliferation of new political parties on the Palestinian scene is significant and that there is turmoil within the ranks of existing organizations and a variety of disputes. The two scholars attributed these conditions to the nature of the political turmoil that the Palestinian people are experiencing.

Fadil Bishnaq, scholar and attorney, thought that the political makeup of the present situation in Palestine was uniquely complicated. He said that people were vying with each other to establish new political parties or to divide and split existing ones. In many organizations, such activities were considered by Mr. Bishnaq to be "unjustified" in many instances.

The fact that citizens tend to establish new parties was attributed by Dr. Iyad al-Barghuthi, professor of political sociology at al-Najah National University, to their sense of frustration with the current performance of political institutions. Citizens expect the new parties that are being established to come up with the ideal solution. Al-Barghuthi pointed out, however, that the general public found out soon after each attempt to establish new parties and organizations was made, that citizens' views about what these new political parties could accomplish was wrong. The general public found out that establishing new political parties was not the road to success.

It is the view of scholar Bishnaq that what is required of the leaders of political organizations and parties is "to put the Palestinian house in order" by taking a look at withdrawals from political parties and reducing the numbers of these withdrawals. He pointed out that there were close to 30 Palestinian parties and groupings.

Bishnaq added that because of circumstances in the past, the Palestinian people had been split by the parties. Instead of serving as forums for correcting the course of the struggle and avenues for conducting the struggle, these parties created political chaos among the Palestinians and split them apart socially and intellectually.

Iyad al-Barghuthi, the Palestinian lecturer, said that the proliferation of political groupings and divisions, even within organizations subscribing to specific ideologies, has caused people to react negatively to these parties and tendencies.

One indicator presented by Dr. Iyad al-Barghuthi for the failure of some of these new organizations and parties has to do with the fact that many of these groupings were established on the foundations of existing political organizations. Differences between these groupings cause them to fail and eventually disappear.

Al-Barghuthi addressed how average citizens would view working within a party. He pointed out that average citizens show no enthusiasm for what is new because to them new parties are like old ones. He pointed out that a trial period is required for a new party to earn the public's confidence and gain credibility, and he indicated that the difficulty of the stage, from a political standpoint, caused the public to become interested in other matters to which they give priority in accordance with their own interests.

The professor of political sociology affirms that the establishment of political parties at the present time and under present conditions is attributable to psychological and political factors, not to the makeup of society.

Attorney Fadil Bishnaq points out that because titles and divisions within Fatah have been proliferating, the movement is being exposed to an organizational imbalance. Mr. Bishnaq finds this situation unhealthy, and he thinks it could cause a split with the movement's central command. According to him, this situation raises many questions and creates a lack of confidence on the Palestinian scene.

Mr. Bishnaq adds that Fatah is not the only movement whose members are withdrawing from it for justifiable and unjustifiable reasons. He pointed out that a split that occurred in the Democratic Front resulted in the creation of the Fida Party. Other new names have appeared on the scene, such as those of the Palestinian People's Party (previously the Communist Party), the Palestinian National Grouping, and the Palestinian Grouping.

Redeployment, Elections Said Still Problems

MM2306081295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hasan 'Usfur, a Senior Palestinian Negotiator, Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Disagreements With Israelis Limited to Two Issues — Jerusalem and Number of Elected Council Members"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Hasan 'Usfur, a senior Palestinian negotiator, has described the current negotiations with Israel as very serious and extensive at all levels, whether in the security or civilian spheres. However, he admitted that there are still big gaps between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on the issue of the Army's redeployment in the West Bank and the issue of Jerusalem residents' participation in the elections.

'Usfur arrived in Tunis, accompanied by Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), economy minister in the [Palestinian] National Authority. They held a protracted meeting with Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) and Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir). The meeting was boycotted by Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), Hani al-Hasan, and Muhammad Jihad.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "The Palestinian and the Israeli sides are currently trying to eliminate these gaps in order to secure an agreement." He pointed out that an understanding has been reached on most sections of the plan concerning the elections, but there is still a gap between the positions over two fundamental issues: Jerusalem and the number of the elected council's members.

On the first issue 'Usfur, who was a senior aide to Abu-Mazin with regard to the Oslo agreement, said that the Palestinian side is insisting that Jerusalem residents participate as both voters and candidates, while the Israeli side continues to demand that they vote only and that the process should be conducted in a nearby village outside Jerusalem or by post.

With regard to the number of the elected council's members, 'Usfur said that the Palestinian side is demanding that the number be 100 members for political, social, and democratic considerations. But the Israelis have not agreed to this figure and are trying to reduce it substantially so as not to exceed the number of the Palestinian Authority's members. 'Usfur urged Israel to begin to release Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails when the transitional agreement begin to be implemented. He stressed that it is very difficult for the Palestinian side to enter the transitional phase while there are more than 6,000 detainees paying a price for their struggle against the occupation. And Israel should put an end to all settlement activities in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

'Usfur stressed that he went to Tunis especially to brief Abu-Mazin on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, Abu-'Ala', who with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is running undeclared negotiations with the Israelis in Gaza, may have conveyed to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis the outcome of these negotiations, especially as regards the redeployment question, which, according to the document conveyed by Abu-'Ala', will begin in mid-November 1995, beginning with Janin, Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, then Nabulus. The operation will take five months. And according to the document in question, the Israeli Army will resume the redeployment operation in May 1995 with regard to Ramallah, while the Israelis insist on not withdrawing from Hebron for considerations relating to the religious feelings of the Jews.

According to the same information, Qaddumi, who met separately with Abu-'Ala' later, refused to discuss this issue with him.

'Failure' of Economic Accord With Israel Seen

TA2206082595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. (Hisham Hawartani), head of al-Najah's Agriculture Faculty in Nabulus and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris accords, says that the Israeli-PLO economic agreement has failed. He calls on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to demand that the agreement be reopened. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Dr. (Hisham Hawartani) is considered a brilliant economist. He heads al-Najah University's Agriculture Faculty, was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris talks, and is a frequent participant in international economic conferences. Hawartani said today that on the first anniversary of the signing of the Israeli-PLO economic accord, it is obvious to all that it has failed. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem translates the above and continues] Dr. (Hawartani) explains that there are two main reasons for the failure of the agreement. The most important was the ban on the entry of Palestinian laborers to Israel for several months and the current limitations on their entry. This seriously undermined the Palestinian economy, bolstered unemployment, and lowered the standard of living. The second cause is preventing agricultural produce from the territories from entering Israel. Agricultural exports were the main Palestinian achievement in the agreement, he said, and Israel is not implementing that clause. (Hawartani) calls on the PA to demand that Israel reopen the agreement in order to implement what was agreed upon. If Israel refuses, the PA should draw the necessary conclusions, he said.

Treasury Director General David Brodet said in response that Israel has taken a series of steps aimed at helping the Palestinians, and that demands to reopen the agreements do not serve either side. Israel is currently transferring to Gaza and Jericho some 400 million shekels annually. When a similar agreement is reached in Judaea and Samaria, Israel will transfer another 600 or 700 million shekels. Under this situation, the Palestinians could lose a great deal of money.

[Brodet] In recent weeks, Israel has made a huge effort — through investments, transfers, and arrangements to guard convoys — to assure supplies of goods between the two economies, and we have succeeded. The flow of goods is very good thanks to the security forces, perhaps at a somewhat higher cost, but that is part of the security situation. There are 34,000 authorized laborers working here, and we believe another 30,000 are working without permits. I am therefore very surprised by these remarks when economically we currently have virtually the best situation we have had in the past year. Demands can always be made, but there are two parties involved. It is a five-year agreement in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria. Such demands do not serve either the Palestinians or the Israelis. [end recording]

Editorial: Baghdad May Lash Out This Summer

95AA0191B Jerusalem AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Hot Iraqi Summer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Enigmatic signs are currently coming out of Baghdad, reflecting unprecedented restlessness and suggesting that Iraq's next summer may be hot and perhaps full of surprises. Most of Iraq's revolutions and invasions have occurred in the months of July and August.

It is clear that the embargo will continue. There is no hope of lifting it until after the November 1996 U.S. elections. Nothing suggests that Rolf Ekeus, head of the international inspection teams, will give the Security Council a positive report when it next meets on 19 June for its periodic discussion of the sanctions, particularly after his announcement on recently leaving the Iraqi capital that the problem of biological weapons media has not been resolved.

If we take into consideration UN Food and Agricultural Organization reports about a Somalia-like famine on its way to Iraq that will claim at least a million victims and published reports by opposition circles about domestic security disturbances in loyal al-Ramadi Province, it is difficult for us, having followed the Iraqi president's reactions and way of thinking, to expect him to accept these developments in a sporting spirit, remain forbearing and calm, use patience, and pray for relief.

Certainly, the Iraqi president still has many powerful cards in his hand. If he decides to use one of them, he can turn the tables and reshuffle the cards in the region, especially since his response to pleas from "reasonable men" to cooperate with the international inspection teams has thus far brought him only humiliations and continued starvation for his people.

No one can accuse the Iraqi Government of not cooperating with the legitimate international authority and with requirements for implementing its resolutions; to date it has abided by over 95 percent of these resolutions. It reluctantly permitted a flagrant violation of its sovereignty when it accepted long-term surveillance of its military industries and an unfair demarcation of its border with Kuwait that deprived it of half of its only port on the Gulf. It received in return only a humiliating partial lifting of the embargo and a crippling new list of demands by Ekeus and those who stand behind him in the corridors of suspect agencies.

Although Iraq's options are limited, they exist. One need only point to how the moving of two Republican Guard divisions along the border with Kuwait caused terrifying nightmares that are still giving the United States and its allies sleepless nights and draining nearly empty oil revenue coffers on arms deals and building electronic fences.

The option of rapprochement with Iran remains an important card in the hand of the Iraqi leadership because of its many implications. Crisis is the common denominator of economic and political conditions of the regimes in Baghdad and Tehran. Both have considerable experience in war and in exporting violent groups to their neighbors and perhaps farther afield.

Anyone who thinks the situation in Iran is better than in Iraq is wrong. The uprising of the hungry and destitute in south Tehran this April, the continued depreciation of the rial, the increasing pressures of demands to service foreign debts, payments that will amount to 7 billion [dollars], or half of oil revenues next year: All are signs that an explosion is coming in Iran if it is not averted by finding an external battle to absorb domestic discontent. It may be useful in this regard to point out that this time it is Iran that is trying to draw closer to Iraq, and not Iraq, as was the case at the beginning of the Kuwait invasion crisis. This rapprochement comes as the expression of a decision that the Iranian National Security Council made at its recent meeting chaired by Ayatollah Khamene'i and attended by President Rafsanjani.

Iraq's present state is that of a wounded tiger. Its blow could be painful, even if it is the last blow, as some who claim wisdom and judgment argue. It is illogical for neighbors in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to use the Iraqi people's tragedy to export more oil and to solve their economic problems by maintaining the embargo and starving the Iraqi people and for the Iraqi Government then to be asked to wait quietly and patiently.

There is an Arabic proverb: They hit the blind man on his eye, so he said, "It is no good; it is no good!" What more can Iraq lose than it has lost? The death of a million Iraqis in a battle to break the embargo might be more honorable than their death by hunger because of it. Although we do not wish anyone's death or want anything but a decent life for this genuinely Arab people, what can they do when they have sold the doors of the houses and bedrooms to buy food for their children, while those who claim to be their brother Arabs and Muslims spend billions to keep them in this state?

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Cairo Talks Reportedly Fail

NC2206151495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1440 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—The fifth round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of powers from Israeli administration to the Palestinian Authority has failed to reach an agreement concerning a transfer of power in eight fields.

Jamil al-Tarifi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, said that Israel has failed to abide by the Declaration of Principles. At a news conference at the end of the talks this afternoon, al-Tarifi noted that the Israeli side wants to take the transfer of power concept out of context.

In his remarks during the news conference, the head of the Palestinian delegation said that the Israeli side wants to shift issues relevant to the eight fields, which should be transferred to the Palestinian Authority [PA] before 1 July, to other sectors. In other words, the Israeli side wants to transfer a part of the electricity sector to the communications sector. That means this area would not be resolved until the communications sector is aranged for, al-Tarifi said.

Al-Tarifi noted that the Israelis want to impose the Israeli concept of the redeployment of forces on the transfer of powers process. He stressed that the Palestinian side totally rejects this concept. Al-Tarifi pointed out that the Israeli side has divided the West Bank into three zones: A Palestinian zone to be administered on both civilian and security levels by the PA; a second zone to be administered on the civilian level by the Palestinians and on the security level by Israel; and a third zone to be administered on the security and civilian levels by Israel. Such a division would give the Palestinians the right to administer only 15 percent of the area of the West Bank, al-Tarifi added. He reiterated the Palestinians' rejection of this proposal.

During the news conference, al-Tarifi said that the most important thing during the transitional stage is the redeployment and Israel's commitment to the Declaration of Principles. He asserted that the issue is not the deadline; it is the degree of Israel's commitment to implementing the agreement. Al-Tarifi noted that if Israel's intentions were not good, the 1 July deadline will not be met. It might take months or years, al-Tarifi added.

Al-Tarifi added that the basis of peace in the region is the Israeli-Palestinian relationship; without peace here, there will be no peace in the Middle East. He added that the Palestinian issue is the most difficult in the Middle East; but without peace on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the entire area will be in danger.

For his part, head of the Israeli team General Aaron Shahor said there are technical differences between the two sides, but we have not reached a crisis. He added: We will try during the next round of negotiations, slated to be held next week, to work out a compromise concerning the differences between the two sides. He said there are no links between one sector and any other.

The next round of negotiations is expected for Tuesday and Wednesday [27 and 28 June] in Cairo.

Israeli Delegation Departs

NC2206184295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1740 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—General Aaron Shahor, Israeli government's coordinator in the occupied territories, and the accompanying delegation left Cairo this evening at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Israeli delegation took part in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations held in Cairo over the past two days.

'Arafat Receives Knesset Deputy Speaker

JN2306090795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0700 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received Israeli Knesset Deputy Speaker Rafa'el Edri at the Presidency yesterday evening. The two sides discussed the results of the current Palestinian-Israeli talks on the implementation of the second part of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, and the obstacles that still hamper the negotiations.

President 'Arafat also received Terje Larsen, coordinator of UN activities with the Palestinian Authority; and (Kem chin), World Bank representative. They reviewed donor states' assistance and the role of the World Bank in this respect.

Algeria

'Source' Cites 'Special Amnesty' for FIS Leader

MM2206104295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sami Dhubyan: "Amnesty For Salvation Front Leaders To Be Announced on Independence Day"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A well-informed Algerian source has stressed that the regime has made big strides in its efforts to resolve the current crisis, to the extent that the detained [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] leaders could appear on a public occasion. The source did not rule out that this public appearance could be the result of a special amnesty to be issued by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, under which FIS leader Shaykh Abassi Madani and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, would be released on the basis of specific security and political conditions.

These reports coincided with the news about the explosion of a booby-trapped car in Constantine in eastern Algeria. Sixteen people were wounded. The operation is believed to have been carried out by extremists opposed to dialogue with the regime.

At the level of the regime's talks with the FIS, the Algerian source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the measure concerning the FIS leaders falls within the framework of a mechanism agreed with those leaders at meetings between Madani and Belhadj on the one hand and Mohamed Bitchin, security adviser to the Algerian president, and other officials on the other.

The Algerian authorities had allowed meetings among FIS leaders in the country to be attended by more than two people, as well as contacts between those inside the country and those abroad. These contacts involved Madani, Belhadj, and Abdelkader Hachani, who will be included in the amnesty, in addition to those already released, including Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Nur-al-Din Shikara, Kamal Goumazi, and Ali Djedi.

The source did not rule out the release of hundreds of detainees from Algerian jails as a first batch in preparation for releasing most prisoners later. The FIS leaders will in turn declare positions condemning violence and killing, urging national reconciliation, the building up of Algeria, its extrication from crisis, and adherence to the country's Constitution and unity.

The source spoke of a written agreement that has been — or is being — drafted in response to the FIS leaders' wish for the opposition party leaders who attended the second Rome seminar to be briefed on the progress of the talks with the authorities and the agreement expected to be signed.

The source believes that the Algerian president has succeeded in preparing Algeria for national elections to be held on the date decided, namely in November, as a first step to electing a president who will be the first authority vis-a-vis the legitimate constitutional position on which any future solution to the crisis will be based.

The Algerian president will use independence day on 5 July as an occasion to announce this solution within the framework of comprehensive national reconciliation, after more than three years of a crisis that has turned into a bloody conflict resulting in numerous casualties.

Madani and Belhadj were sentenced in 1992 to 12 years in prison on charges of conspiring against the state. They were moved last year to a government residence under strict security.

The bulletin EL RIBAT, mouthpiece of FIS supporters in Europe, has called for negotiations between Algerian officials and FIS leaders. It said in its recent issue that reports arriving from Algeria confirm the resumption of the negotiation meetings, held in response to an initiative from the regime — which proves the failure of the repressive security solution to the crisis.

The bulletin pointed out that the Front is for a negotiated, just, political solution to the problem and that there can be no solution to the crisis without the Front.

In a security development that occurred yesterday, the official television announced that 16 people were wounded when a booby-trapped car exploded yesterday morning in a popular district in Constantine in eastern Algeria.

The source said that the explosion badly damaged a building in the area. No one has claimed responsibility for the operation.

'Islamic Commando' Reportedly Kills 5 Young Girls

LD2206223995 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The blood of the innocent continues to be shed in Algeria. Five girls have been found dead, with their throats cut, 200 km from Algiers.

The five victims, aged between 15 and 21, were abducted from their homes on the night of 18 to 19 June by an Islamic commando.

Egypt

Mubarak Cited on Democracy, Press, Saudi Ties

NC2206201695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1520 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has expressed hope that at its new session the Consultative Council will be able to do its part in enhancing and expanding democracy and in discussing social issues in the interest of the country, as well as discussion legislation and issues through its committees.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said this after President Husni Mubarak's meeting with the National Democratic Party parliamentary group who are members of the Consultative Council. The information minister added that President Mubarak emphasized that there is no difference between elected and appointed members of the parliamentary councils because everyone works hard for the parliamentary and legislative institutions. [passage omitted]

The information minister said President Mubarak explained that democracy is based on the multiparty system and freedom of the press. Mubarak said the nature of life, democratic action, and political, social, and economic changes require "modification of the laws" from time to time for the good of all groups in society, regardless of whether the modification affects social, political, or economic aspects of life. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak noted the respect for the judiciary's rulings and said the Higher Constitutional Court is authorized to look into all laws should there be a difference in views or objections to the constitutionality of a law. He added: We should always respect the judiciary's ruling as the arbiter. History shows that every judicial verdict has been the object of respect and veneration. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak also stressed the freedom of press and his respect for journalists, noting that the Egyptian press is performing its role under the Constitution, which insures its freedom. At the same time, President Mubarak stressed the need for this freedom to be in harmony with society and for maintaining the safeguards.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak referred to his meeting with the Press Syndicate Council members yesterday and to the four decrees he issued at that meeting. The president noted that the ideas we put up for discussion should always be consistent with the Constitution and legitimacy. He said reality shows that there is a conscious desire to preserve the freedom of press and society's rights.

The president added that he had explained the situation to the Syndicate Council with complete frankness, reason, and logic, and that he heard all the views and issued suitable resolutions in accordance with the Constitution. He expressed his hope that the Egyptian press will be alert to the attempts of certain forces to exploit the situation and cause unrest in the mistaken impression that they can cause a rift between the regime, which is based on democracy and freedom, and its free, responsible press to their own benefit.

The information minister clarified that President Mubarak emphasized that preservation of freedom is a cherished principle no matter how difficult this is. He said: We are very intent on this principle; therefore, we seek to maintain a balance between obligations and the growth of freedom. Duty is the bulwark that protects freedom from turning into chaos, which could bring us to loggerheads or to an unknown situation. He noted that deviations from verities enshrined in the Constitution pose a threat to the democratic process.

President Mubarak said: I appeal to our brother journalists to be alert to certain forces lurking in the dark poised to strike at democracy. These forces will take us into a dark abyss leading nowhere. We must realize that if we do not respect the Constitution and law, the political and economic structure of society will collapse.

On expanding the Consultative Council's powers, al-Sharif said President Mubarak clarified that although most democratic nations adopt a unicameral system, we in Egypt have a bicameral system. Mubarak added: All draft bills concerning the Constitution are referred to the Consultative Council. We will expand on this practice. With its expertise, the Consultative Council's debates improve and enhance legislation and complement the opinions of the People's Assembly in its capacity as a legislative council.

The president added: At present, we are not inclined to make any changes to the Constitution in order to give the Consultative Council new powers. We must cling to and respect our Constitution as the mother of all laws. [passage omitted]

On contradictions in handling domestic or other issues affecting Egypt's relations with friendly or fraternal countries, President Mubarak said the institutions' efforts are sometimes not consistent with the objective. In an open and democratic society, he added, views sometimes differ and some people occasionally lose sight of the public interest.

He emphasized that such issues should not be handled narrow-mindedly, nervously, or hastily. Otherwise we may be too impersonal in handling issues concerning an individual error.

The president said the relationship between Egypt and Saudi Arabia cannot be shaken by an incident, event, or a mistake here or there. He noted the firm relationship and close ties between the Egyptian and Saudi peoples and his own fraternal relationship with the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The president emphasized that it benefits no one — be it an individual, a writer, or a newspaper — to attempt to incite the people or arouse feelings in either country. He added that there is no use in engaging in verbal exchanges that do not provide opportunities for dialogue and understanding. He noted that for Egyptians living in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia is their second homeland; and when the Saudis stay in Egypt, they are in their homeland in the midst of kinfolk who are hospitable and regard them with brotherly feelings.

Noting the lack of an Arab market even though a decision to found such a market preceded the establishment of the EEC, President Mubarak said that numerous factors and forces, international balances, intricate and complex interests, and divergent wills have prevented the emergence of an Arab market. He referred to conflicting interests in this regard, at both the Arab, regional, and global levels.

President Mubarak emphasized: We are doing our utmost to establish bilateral cooperation with our brothers in the Arab countries. Firm political, economic, scientific, and technical ties exist with all the brothers in the Arab countries.

President Mubarak said: In order to secure opportunities for trade and useful and fair cooperation with our brothers as well as with the outside world, we must develop our factories' products so they will meet international specifications. [passage omitted]

Commenting on reports by some opposition newspapers on coverups for corruption, al-Sharif said President Mubarak asserted that there are no such coverups. He said the public has the means to uncover any corruption, and that anyone suspecting corruption must report it to the investigating agency so that it can take action. Those who talk about corruption, he added, should fear God for the sake of their country and be an example themselves before they slander others and make baseless charges against them.

He said: We want a mass media and press that we can feel proud of, one that protects the reputation of our people.

Commenting on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, President Mubarak referred to the ties linking Egypt and Sudan. He explained the developments that had led to crises in these ties and said that these crises were not a product of today but have been recurring since previous regimes, back to the eras of President Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir and President al-Sadat.

President Mubarak asserted that Egypt is eager to have good relations with its brothers and with all Arab countries.

Press Syndicate Assesses Talks With Senior Officials

NC2206145295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA) — At its meeting under the chairmanship of the doyen of journalists, Ibrahim Nafi', the Press Syndicate Council discussed the outcome of the meetings between the syndicate council and senior state officials, which culminated in a meeting with President Husni Mubarak yesterday. The meetings were held in the context of moves to implement the syndicate General Assembly's resolutions and instructions to the council.

The council made a comprehensive assessment of these results and decided to draft a statement on all these contacts and their outcomes. It will be submitted to the General Assembly the day after tomorrow, Saturday, so it can pass suitable resolutions.

The syndicate's secretary general, 'Ali Hashim, said the Press Syndicate Council will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss procedures for convening the General Assembly.

It is noteworthy that the General Assembly has been in permanent session since 10 June.

Press Syndicate Memo Referred to Prime Minister

NC2206133295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1240 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that he received a memorandum contesting the constitutionality of Law No. 93 of 1995, which the Press Syndicate Council submitted to President Husni Mubarak yesterday.

In a statement today, al-Sahrif said he referred the memorandum to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who, in turn, will today refer it to the Higher Constitutional Court.

The information minister added that this memorandum is different from a previous one the Press Syndicate submitted to President Husni Mubarak on this law.

Al-Sharif Views Mubarak's Meeting With NDP Members

NC2206140795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1236 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak met the National Democratic Party [NDP] parliamentary group at the headquarters of the Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics in Cairo this morning.

During the meeting President Mubarak discussed several domestic and foreign issues. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, deputies of the prime minister, ministers, the speaker of the Consultative Council, and senior public figures of the state attended the three-hour meeting.

[In a related, Cairo-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1250 GMT on 22 June adds the following: "Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that during a meeting this morning with the National Democratic Party Bureau, the prime minister, and the Consultative Council speaker, President Husni Mubarak agreed to increase the council's committees from six to nine to let the leaders contribute to their work according to their specializations. President Mubarak also welcomed a proposal to increase the number of public figures on the council from three to five.

["The information minister added that it was agreed to keep the current status of the NDP Bureau unchanged."]

Mubarak Appoints 47 Consultative Council Members

NC2106181695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1650 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today issued a decision appointing 47 public figures members of the Consultative Council. They include Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the board of directors, chief editor of the newspaper AL-AHRAM, and doyen of the press syndicate; Mukarram Muhammad Ahmad, chief of the board of directors of the Dar al-Hilal Publications House and chief editor of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR; Dr. Rif'at al-Said, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Party; and Samir Rajab, chief of the board of directors of the al-Tahrir Printing and Publication House. The appointees also include Mustafa Kamil, leader of the Liberal Party; Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al Hasan, leader of the Social Justice Party; Dr. Yunan Labib Rizq, author and history professor at 'Ayn Shams University; Dr. Usamah Harb, chief editor of the magazine AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH; and Muhammad 'Ali al-Faqiy, chairman of the General Trade Union of Printing and Publication Workers.

Prosecutor Orders Autopsy on Fundamentalist Lawyer

NC2306042095 Paris AFP in English
1516 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 22 (AFP) — Egypt's chief prosecutor Thursday [23 June] ordered an autopsy to be carried out on a Islamic fundamentalist lawyer who died in a new prison in Egypt's western desert this week, legal officials said.

According to a medical report released by the authorities at Wadi al-Jadid prison, Mustafa Muhammad 'Iraqi, 25, died of a "heart attack."

The Egyptian Bar Association, which is dominated by the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood, called on the prosecutor general Wednesday [21 June] to order an autopsy.

It said 'Iraqi "was in good health" before his death in unclear circumstances. He had been in prison since 1993.

Legal officials said 'Iraqi had been acquitted in August 1993 in the trial of 32 members of the fundamentalist al-Shawqiyun group, accused of raiding jewelers' shops in Cairo belonging to Coptic Christians.

But people regarded as a "threat to state security" can be detained under emergency laws in force since 1981.

'Iraqi is the second fundamentalist to die in the prison, 620 kilometres (385 miles) southwest of Cairo, since it opened in February.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) puts the number of inmates in Wadi al-Jadid at around 1,500 and says they are "in danger" because of the security services' "illegal and arbitrary practices."

Another fundamentalist lawyer, 'Abd-al-Haris Madani, died "under torture" in April 1994 after only a few days in detention, the Bar Association said. The authorities said he died after an asthma attack.

'Contradictory' Israeli Statements on Golan Viewed

NC2106121795 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I
in Arabic 14 Jun 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Arrogance or Negotiating Ploy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every day, Israel betrays itself by being politically bankrupt, disruptive of the law, and by negotiating with acute evasiveness.

I have frequently tried to force myself to adopt a neutral or even a positive position on Israel on the chance that I might learn something from it, but I found nothing very civilized to learn. I only found the arrogance of power, vanity, stupidity, political bankruptcy, disruptiveness, evasiveness, and the ability to lie and shirk commitments. These are not be the qualities that a country wanting to live in harmony with its neighbors in a context of equal, peaceful coexistence should have.

I have four contradictory statements in front of me that are about the Golan Heights. They were made by four senior Israeli officials in the past 48 hours. It is impossible to tell which statement is closest to the real Israeli position.

The first statement was made by Israeli President Ezer Weizman during a tour of northern Israel and south Lebanon. He said that the Israeli Government—Rabin's government—plans to withdraw from the Golan up to the international border with Syria, meaning that it will withdraw from the entire Syrian Golan but will keep the Palestinian Golan strip that was part of Palestine during the British Mandate.

This is not acceptable to Syria. Syria wants the withdrawal to continue to the 4 June 1967 border, namely, to include the Palestinian Golan. However, this is not as bad the position adopted by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has never made a comparable commitment .

The second statement was made by Rabin after his meeting in Paris with French President Jacques Chirac. It was not a new statement but a repetition of the remarks he made following his meeting with Warren Christopher during the U.S. secretary of state's previous Middle East tour. Rabin said he wants full normalization with Syria in return for a limited withdrawal from the Golan. While the meaning of full normalization is well-known, Mr. Rabin regrettably did not say how far the limited withdrawal would go or if the limited withdrawal would be from part of the entire Golan or from a part of the Syrian Golan only, as the Israeli president referred.

The third statement was made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Peres refused to discuss any withdrawal arrangements, stating that such talk is meaningless before an agreement is reached. Of course, Mr. Peres failed to explain on what issue he would reach agreement with the Syrians, if not on withdrawal. For example, would he reach an agreement with them on normalizing ties in return for the occupying additional Syrian territory? This is, really, a very puzzling matter.

The fourth and final statement was made by Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who announced that his country is ready to return the entire Golan Heights to Syria in return for peace. This is the best of the statements but it is still vague and merely expresses the minister's personal opinion. It does not determine Israel's policy or make any commitments.

The four statements can have only one of two possible meanings:

First, they show vanity, stupidity, arrogance of power, evasiveness, and political bankruptcy.

Second, they are simply part of a negotiating ploy and a clever distribution of roles by Israeli leaders before the negotiations between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff begin on 27 June. The statements are also directed at the U.S. Administration, which wants to end the Syria-Israel impasse this year.

The coming weeks and months will show us which of the above interpretations is correct. At any rate, we, the Arabs, must adopt a flexible position, appropriate to those who are the rightful owners. It must be based on rigorous adherence to principle, but it must also let innovative negotiating methods be used to restore our rights.

Tunisia

Qatari Amir Bin-Hamad Al Thani Pays Visit

Arrives, Comments on Trip

LD2006124495 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, arrived in Tunis this morning on a three-day state visit at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The head of state greeted Tunisia's noble guest upon arrival at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. [passage omitted]

Before leaving the airport, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani made a statement in which he said: On the occasion of my visit to my second country, the fraternal Republic of Tunisia, I would like to convey my personal greetings and those of the Qatari people to my dear brother, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for whom we harbor feelings of love and appreciation.

I would also like to say that I am happy with this visit, which will be give me an opportunity to consult with my brother His Excellency President Zine El Abidine

Ben Ali on all matters of interest to our countries, to examine the means for boosting our strong and fraternal relations and cooperation in all spheres, and to exchange viewpoints on the main problems facing our Arab and Islamic nations, foremost of which is the peace process in the Middle East, and the means for bolstering Arab efforts to restore Arab solidarity, needed to promote the causes of our Arab nation and the preservation of its security and stability. May Almighty God guide our work to best interest of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Views Regional Issues With President

LD2106100195 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks at Carthage palace this afternoon with Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, who has started a three-day state visit to Tunisia.

An official presidency spokesman said the president and his guest, the amir of Qatar, reviewed bilateral relations and the prospects of developing and promoting them in line with the joint political will to further strengthen relations between the two peoples in all spheres.

The official spokesman said that the two countries' leaders expressed their satisfaction at the good level of Tunisian-Qatari cooperation, particularly economic and technical cooperation, and expressed their desire for bilateral relations to expand to include other spheres.

The official spokesman said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani decided to intensify the exchange of visits at official and economic levels, and called for the convening of the joint Tunisian-Qatari higher committee for cooperation before the end of this year.

The two leaders also reviewed the situation in the Arab world, developments in the Middle East peace process, prospects of Arab- African cooperation, and all the current international issues of mutual concern.

The official presidency spokesman said the president and the amir of Qatar stressed the need to continue efforts to re-establish harmony in Arab ranks on the bases of mutual respect, trust, accord, and solidarity.

He added that the two countries' leaders reaffirmed their support for the Middle East peace efforts in a way that will guarantee security and stability. They reaffirmed that they stand by the Palestinian people's efforts to achieve their legitimate national rights.

They also stressed the importance of the Jerusalem issue in the process of reaching a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The official spokesman said that in the discussion of Arab- African relations, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who is chairman of the OAU, stressed the significant opportunities for cooperation between the Arab and African groups.

He pointed out that in the course of reviewing international issues, the two leaders expressed their utmost concern about the persistent deterioration of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and called for persistent efforts to end the suffering of the Bosnian people.

The official presidency spokesman said the president and the amir of Qatar expressed the importance they attach to providing further impetus to consultation on all issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Holds Further Talks With Ben Ali

D2206194395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a second round of talks this morning with Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar. An official presidency spokesman said that the talks enabled the two officials to hold a general review of all issues of mutual interest.

Regarding bilateral relations, the spokesman highlighted the firm mutual desire which leads the heads of the two countries to greater support for Tunisian-Qatari brotherhood and cooperation by increasing consultation, an exchange of visits between officials of the two countries on the political and economic level, and the establishment of joint projects in major sectors of benefit to the two fraternal peoples.

The official presidency spokesman added that, with regard to the situation in the Arab arena, the two leaders reaffirmed that efforts must be intensified to restore purity, solidarity, and harmony to Arab relations on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of states, their choices, and their integrity as entities.

Regarding the peace process in the Middle East, the official spokesman said that his excellency the president and his highness the amir of Qatar called on all sides to abide by the appointed dates stipulated in the agreements signed, so that peace and harmony may prevail in the region.

He explained that the two leaders' talks highlighted the conformity of their viewpoints on all bilateral, regional, and international issues touched on. [passage omitted]

Ends State Visit

LD2206194895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, left Tunisia this morning at the end of his state visit, which lasted from 20 to 22 June, at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Meeting Comprising Tariq 'Aziz, Others

JN2206160395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 95

[From the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has presided over a meeting which comprised Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister; Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister; and Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, MIO director.

Opposition: Saddam Replaces Air Force Commander

MM2206110395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Khaldun al-Tikriti Appointed Iraqi Air Force Commander"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The (opposition) Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation has said that President Saddam Husayn has appointed Staff Flight Major General Khaldun Nasir al-Tikriti commander of the Air Force. In a statement, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received, the corporation said that the appointment was made following the dismissal of pilot Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan al-Tikriti.

Elsewhere, the corporation said in a separate statement that on the morning of 14 June five tanks from the 14 July Battalion tried to occupy the "special squadron" area behind Saddam Airport (35 km southwest of Baghdad). But helicopters surrounded the rebel tanks and destroyed the operation.

Troops Said Reinforced Along 'Several Axes' in South

JN2106165395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our militant sources in the south have said that the tyrant has begun to reinforce his forces along several axes in our rebellious south with the objective of attacking the people and tribes. These sources added that the axes are as follows:

The axis of the al-Jabayish District and its marshlands in al-Nasiriyah Governorate, and the axis of the areas of (al-Masabb, al-Miqta', and al-Hiyazir).

The recent Saddamist reinforcements have taken place following the escalation of tension in the al-Nasiriyah Governorate, and our people's attacks on some soldiers from the al-Sa'dun family which is loyal to the regime.

In another development, the same sources said that the heroes of the Islamic resistance succeeded in planting a group of mines on the (al-Masabb al-'Amm) road on the first of Muharram [corresponding to 30 May]. The explosion of some of these mines destroyed three tanks and killed 25 of the personnel of a Saddamist force which was moving on the aforementioned road to take a position in the marshlands. Another force fled after our mujahidin took full control of the area.

Opposition Leader Interviewed on Abu Gharib Events

JN2106105395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Interview with unidentified "Iraqi opposition leader of Kurdish origin who arrived in Israel this week," by Eli Nisan, Israeli TV correspondent for parliamentary affairs; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nisan] Have the Iraqi people supported the attempts to overthrow Saddam Husayn?

[Opposition leader] The recent attempt was not preplanned; it happened quickly after Saddam Husayn assassinated one of the officers of the al-Dulaym tribe, who held the rank of Army major general. As you know, the al-Dulaym tribe rendered many services to Saddam, and the Iraqi Intelligence and Army are full of people from the al-Dulaym tribe. Following the assassination of this officer after suspecting him of something — Saddam usually kills people if he only suspects them of something — after torturing him, and after giving his mutilated body to his family, people became furious and carried out a move, which was not preplanned or known in advance. The move came on the spur of the moment, so it did not succeed.

For example, the first thing they wanted to do was seize the radio station. They thought that things were as they used to be in the old days; they thought that a coup would succeed if they took control of the radio station. Meanwhile, Saddam, who is prepared to operate 20 radio stations instead, immediately closed down the station.

[Nisan] Does the coup attempt show that the Iraqi people are against Saddam?

[Opposition leader] The attempt has very great significance. For the first time, Iraq's Sunnis, not Shiites or Kurds, stood up against the regime. The attempt took place from within the group which supports Saddam Husayn. For the first time, people from the Republican Guard and the Intelligence wanted to take revenge. This will encourage others to support this idea and show that those standing against Saddam are not only from the Kurds and Shiites in the south, but also from the Sunnis who support him. Thus, the problem is getting very close to him, it is inside his house.

Minister Views Oil Capacity, Urges End to Embargo

AU2106110395 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 21 Jun 95 p 3

[Interview with Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad al-Habubi by Gudrun Harrer at the OPEC meeting in Vienna; date not given: "The Americans Want Oil Without People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Harrer] Once again OPEC must be afraid of losing a member: Small producer Gabon no longer agrees to pay as much to OPEC as Saudi Arabia, that is, $1.8 trillion per year. What do you think of a contribution model that is graduated according to the output — at present, Iraq is also producing little. Does Iraq pay its membership fee?

[Al-Habubi] As you well know, we have no money: All our accounts abroad are frozen and we are not permitted to sell anything. OPEC is giving us, so to speak, a loan and we will pay everything back later. The voice of each member counts the same in OPEC, therefore it also seems to me logical that all pay the same.

[Harrer] How much is Iraq currently producing? What are the capacities?

[Al-Habubi] Every day, about 700,000 barrels are produced, at least 50,000 barrels of which go to Jordan, which is permitted by Article 50. The allies destroyed more than 90 percent of the refineries and the infrastructure, the repairs have advanced very far and will be concluded in about one year. Then we could again produce about 3.5 million barrels, as before the war.

We are striving for a production capacity of 6 million barrels, which might be achieved by exploiting new oil fields. In addition, we need investments of $30 billion, in which many foreign firms are interested.

[Harrer] The French companies Elf and Total are always mentioned. Do contracts already exist?

[Al-Habubi] The time will come in one to two months. An agreement has already been concluded with Russia.

[Harrer] These are also the states that most advocate lifting of the embargo in the Security Council.

[Al-Habubi] And there is China, which wants to help us. I am sure that things will change.

[Harrer] The latest UN report still speaks of 17 metric tons of a disappeared nutrient solution for the production of biological weapons.

[Al-Habubi] Iraq is trying to procure all the information that the United Nations requests. But Mr. Ekeus (UN Commissioner Rolf Ekeus — the editors) has perhaps other reasons for always presenting something else — under U.S. pressure and influence. We handed all equipment for weapons production over to the United Nations for it to be destroyed: What would we, therefore, do with the nutrient solution?

The Americans want oil, but without people. Therefore, they want to kill the Iraqis. What is more, they are already doing it. Every day people die because of the embargo.

[Harrer] Reports on severe riots in Iraq have recently been increasing.

[Al-Habubi] They are absolutely false.

[Harrer] If they are false reports, who starts them and why?

[Al-Habubi] The United States wants to overthrow the government, but the Iraqis want Saddam Husayn. The rumors are always deliberately launched in the media a few days before Ekeus presents a report in New York. That is to convey the following feeling to the members of the Security Council: Let us still wait a bit, this government will in any case not last much longer.

INA Reviews Government Cooperation With UN

JN1806134195 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, June 18, INA — The U.N Security Council is to hold a meeting on Monday to review the anti-Iraq economic sanctions imposed since August 6, 1990.

The forthcoming meeting of the Security Council acquires big and decisive importance after Iraq has reciprocated all its commitments under the Security Council unjust resolutions dictated under the U.S and British influence, and the world pressure is now going high on the Security Council to meet its obligations towards Iraq in accordance with Para 22 of Resolution 687 passed in 1991.

Iraq has patiently and in the high sense of responsibility dealt with new events during the implementation of those commitments of tight cases of tension and incessant conspiracy as well as premeditated and invented provocative positions managed by some members of the U.N Special Commission and the U.N inspection teams.

All evidences and the course of events confirm that those provocative positions were pre-planned for achieving dubious political purposes and justifying the anti-Iraq aggression and conspiring on its security and national unity.

Iraq has sought, in implementing all its unprecedented reciprocal commitments to foil the technical pretexts being used by the U.S administration and the British government and their agents and spies to implement the anti-Iraq conspiratorial design and urge the council to satisfy its obligations.

Iraq implementation of its commitments mentioned in the security council resolutions was the only way available to win attitudes of a large number of Security Council member states which their governments have no pre-aggressive positions against it and to encourage them to adopt vivid and strong ones to back up the Iraqi right.

The Security Council passed since August 1990 pending April 1995 thirty resolutions pursuant to the 7th chapter of the U.N Charter and issued forty presidential statements and set up a number of committees.

The security council has set up the U.N Special Commission to dismantle Iraq weapons that have been banned according to resolution 687 and the equipment capable of manufacturing these arms as well as the boycott committee to supervise the implementation of the embargo and the U.N compensation and the border demarcation committees and set up the international observers force and entrust the International Atomic Energy Agency with undertaking tasks of the U.N Special Commission in the nuclear sphere.

The Security Council has also charged the International Red Cross Committee with supervising the release and repatriate all Kuwaiti captives and detainees and other states' nationals in Iraq and also supervise the fact-finding process on fate of the missing.

As concerns the weapons and equipment prohibited according to Resolution 687, Iraq had met all its reciprocal commitments, and the U.N Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency had fulfilled all their tasks by destroying and dismantling all materials included in the said paras including the relevant installations and positions.

Chairman of the U.N special commission Rolf Ekeus confirmed that in his report presented to the security council on October 10, 1994.

Meanwhile, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency Hans Blix affirmed that also in his address before the U.N general assembly on october 17, 1994 and his report to the security council on October 10, 1994.

Ekeus retracted of his commitment owing to the U.S pressures, and referred in his report to the Security Council on April 10, 1995 that the U.N Special Commission believes that Iraq has not yet met its obligations in the biological sphere, specifically its information on the previous program, and kept some outstanding objects of secondary importance in the chemical and missile fields.

Ekeus emphasised that the monitoring system is now operating well and the Iraqi side is cooperating well with the U.N Special Commission in performing its tasks in this field.

Evidences confirm that the essential end in the Section C of Resolution 687 has been completely achieved by the destruction of the weapons and equipment as well as the positions and the buildings dedicated to the banned activities.

The U.N Special Commission has destroyed 140 long-range al-Husayn and Scud missiles, 80 bombers, 150 more machines and equipment and 15 buildings and all these possessed by Iraq in this field.

75 chemical warheads of al-Husayn missiles, 8,000 air bombs of different calibres, 7,000 missiles, 13,000 artillery ammunition, 3,000,000 litres of materials used in manufacturing the chemical weapon, 500 machines and equipment in addition to seven positions of production had all been destroyed.

Iraq stressed that the biological program which started in 1986 of a research nature was dedicated for the defensive purposes and was cancelled in Autumn 1990, thus it is a limited one concerning the researchers and laboratories and a number of accomplished researches.

The position of the biological program in al-Salman area was the target of the U.S-led coalition air raids against Iraq in 1991 and was completely destroyed.

The U.N Special Commission sent since August 1991 pending October 1993 three specialised inspection teams grouping high-ranking scientific cadres analysed the Iraqi announcements and conducted lengthy meetings with their Iraqi counterparts.

The U.N Special Commission said in a report to the Security Council on November 1993 that Iraq had satisfied all its obligations in the biological sphere, and it was regarded closed.

Ekeus and his commission re-opened the biological dossier anew under mounting pressures, especially its re-opening coincided with the closure of the chemical and missile dossiers.

The U.N special commission sent intensive inspection teams since July 1994 pending March 1995 following the big fuss stirred up by the U.S and the Western circles about Iraq imports of biological equipment and materials in 1988 who alleged that they could be used for dual purposes civilian and military and they also stirred up baseless doubts on nature of al-Hakam factory.

Despite all provocative moves and acts, but the Iraqi side had refuted the allegations and the doubts fabricated by the inspection teams, especially those pertaining to al-Hakam factory and the imported equipment, and the biological dossier is still open and work is currently underway to find the appropriate way to handle it.

The Iraqi nuclear program was totally destroyed in accordance with an acknowledgement by deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iraq, until May 1995, fulfilled measures of its implementation of the Security Council Resolution 715 for 1991 on setting up the monitoring system.

The Iraqi formal reports said that 194 inspection teams and technical delegations had visited Iraq since 1991 so far and their members were three thousand for inspection and supervision, namely, 41 missile teams, 32 chemical teams, 27 biological teams, 39 nuclear teams and 53 technical delegations and a team to study mechanism of the import and the export, during which they inspected tens of positions and found nothing prohibited.

The air reconnaissance team present in Iraq since June 1992 inspected by helicopter 617 positions, while the U.S U-2 spy aircraft used for espionage purposes under umbrella of surveillance at the expense of the U.N special commission carried out 1,031 flight hours.

Iraq continued cooperation with the U.N Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency despite the doubts that might have been stirred up between whiles by the two sides on credibility of the Iraqi announcements when partial intelligence reports or interpolative press reports presented to them alleging Iraq concealment of undeclared activities.

These reports are being timed prior to the routine review by the Security Council of the anti-Iraq economic sanctions or when the U.N Special Commission presents reports to the council.

Ekeus retract and evasion of the agreement made with him will never change the clear-cut and firm fact, namely, Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments and the Security Council should, in return, reciprocate its obligations towards Iraq according to Para 22 of Resolution 687.

However, Iraq had recognized, pursuant to the Revolution Command Council Decision No. 200 and the National Assembly declaration on November 10, 1994 Kuwait sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and international border demarcated by the U.N committee in accordance with provisions of the Security Council Resolutions 867 and 833.

Iraq had informed, according to a message by Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Said al-Sahhaf to the president of the Security Council Albright on November 1994 , the Revolution Command Council decision and the National Assembly declaration in this regard.

The Security Council issued on November 16, 1994 a presidential statement in which it welcomed Iraq decision to recognize Kuwait and its border as demarcated by the U.N committee.

At a time Iraq had implemented its commitment concerning Kuwait sovereignty and the border, the U.S, Britain and the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia did not adhere to the Security Council resolutions that stress the respect of Iraq sovereignty, border and territorial integrity.

The rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had spent hundreds of millions of dollars to conspire on Iraq with a view to overthrowing its political regime and financing acts of the military aggression and also the pro-Iran elements to carry out acts of sabotage and murder in the north of Iraq.

The U.S used bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for its warplanes to carry out provocative sorties and impose the no-fly zone in the north of the country.

On the other hand, Iraq showed total cooperation with the U.N representatives to return the Kuwaiti properties, where the U.N chief had extolled in his reports raised to the Security Council Iraq cooperation in this respect.

Iraq had released 6222 captives and detainees in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 686 for 1991 and they were repatriated to their countries in cooperation with the International Red Cross Committee.

Official reports refer that 6528 Kuwaiti and other states' nationals returned home under supervision of the Red Cross and there have been 4214 Kuwaitis who are now living in Iraq and registered by the Red Cross since

1991 had showed desire to return to Kuwait and are still awaiting consent of the rulers of Kuwait who allowed the return of only 707 till July 13, 1994.

Iraq had agreed to two initiatives by King Hassan II of Morocco and the state of Qatar through which Iraq had announced its readiness to set up a joint committee to search for the missing, but the Kuwaiti regime had turned down all sincere endeavors as well as it rejected an initiative by Indonesian President Suharto.

Official reports referred that there have been thousands of the Iraqi missing and individual dossiers would be prepared to repatriate them through the International Red Cross Committee in cooperation with other parties.

The Security Council Resolution 670 passed on Sep. 25, 1990 is still valid, but the boycott committee has not allowed to operate the Iraqi aircraft to ferry the Iraqi pilgrims or maintain them in airports of some states and it has also hampered the transport of meat by air from the Sudan to Iraq.

Moreover, the Iraqi Revolution Command Council issued its Decision No. 55 on March 5, 1991 by which it repealed all its previous decisions concerning the annexation of Kuwait and the Iraqi National Assembly, parliament, issued on March 30, 1990 a decision abrogating its previous decision issued on August 7, 1990 on the merger unity with Kuwait, and by this Iraq had implemented the Security Council Resolution 662 passed on August 9, 1990.

Iraq had adopted all practical measures to satisfy its commitments pursuant to Section C and showed a responsible cooperation and rendered all required facilities to the inspection teams to fulfill their tasks.

Iraq had also documented its firm attitude rejecting the international terrorism with all its forms in a message by Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the Security Council on June 11, 1991.

Iraq has not imported any kind of arms since the U.S-led 30- state 1991 war in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 700 passed on June 17, 1991.

The Security Council Resolution 705 is still valid when Iraq is allowed to export its oil.

Iraq had rejected the Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 because they represented a political pursuit designed to prejudice Iraq sovereignty and intervene in its internal affairs and dismember its people on ethnical and sectarian basis, and not to secure the basic humanitarian needs of Iraq's population.

Iraq had sought through five rounds of talks held with the U.N General Assembly in Vienna and New York in 1992 and 1993 to reach an acceptable formula of sound procedures to implement mechanism of the two resolutions with a view to securing the basic civil needs of Iraq's people.

Iraq had accepted the Security Council Resolution 715 passed on October 11, 1991 and continued its cooperation for completing setting up the monitoring system.

On April 10, 1995, Ekeus declared in his report to the Security Council that the monitoring system is well operating in Iraq.

Iraq had turned down the Security Council Resolution 986 passed on April 14, 1995 because it was worst of the earlier ones 706 and 712 and consolidated the state of insurgency in the north of Iraq.

Iraq had also rejected to deal with the Security Council Resolution 688 issued on April 5, 1991 because it was designed on the basis of a blatant and direct intervention in its internal affairs.

However, June 18, 1995 would be decisive in the history of the relation between Iraq and the Security Council, and a joint statement by the Revolution Command Council and the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Iraq Command published on June 10 confirmed Iraq attitude explained to the friendly states and chairman of the U.N special Commission Rolf Ekeus.

The statement said "Iraq hinges essential importance on Ekeus report to be presented to the Security Council on the 18th of this month".

The political and strategic analysts said that Iraq had reciprocated all its commitments, thus the Security Council should, in return, implement its obligation towards Iraq and respond to the logic of wisdom and make the initiative for lifting the five-year-old oppressive embargo.

Daily Criticizes U.S. 'Filthy Pursuit' of Sanctions

JN2206100695 Baghdad INA in English
0830 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 22, INA — An Iraqi newspaper has described the feverish attempts by Washington to keep the anti-Iraq economic sanctions in place for as long as possible as an immoral and filthy pursuit reflecting a racial rancour and disregard of validity of the humanitarian conventions, charters and values.

AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party said in its Thursday article that this pursuit could be also described as criminal and designed to achieve greeds and goals the U.S. Administration had failed to realise them by its various means and methods during its 1991 anti-Iraq war. [sentence as received]

The paper made it clear that Washington unruly thrust began to build further pressures on its partners and allies and attempt to assure its agents to bet on the factor of time to harm Iraq as they were deluded in a gradual degree through different pressures inside the Security Council to keep the embargo in place.

Iraq, despite all systematic claims fabricated by America before and after each discussion by the Security Council of report of the U.N. Special Commission or the routine review of the anti-Iraq embargo which interpreted the U.S.-Zionist concern, had turned the corner and implemented with high degree of credibility its reciprocal commitments in line with the Security Council resolutions, and the Council should, in return, satisfy its obligations and put Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 into practice.

AL-THAWRAH further said that the manner of procrastination and the attempt to evade implementing the reciprocal obligations demonstrated brutality of the U.S. attitude and subsequently its cheap hypocrisy as well as its dubious pursuits and aims through keeping the anti-Iraq embargo in place for as long as possible.

The paper stressed that many world states silence would not remain for keeps and control the situation and America is no longer capable of passing its deviative designs as it did throughout the past four years.

It concluded by saying that there is no surprise that America is going on inventing further lies and allegations to jam Iraq attitude as it had accustomed before.

Paper: U.S. Sanctions 'Directly Harm' Turkey

JN2106094295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0614 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA) — AL-THAWRAH says the exposed U.S. pretext, which the Turkish Government repeats when it renews the presence of U.S. forces on its territory, is a futile and fabricated pretext that cannot hide the fact that this suspicious military presence is aimed at conspiring against Iraq rather than protecting the Iraqi Kurds as they allege.

In an article published today, the newspaper, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the Iraqi Kurds, and the Kurds in Turkey are well aware that the U.S. forces in Turkey have neither assisted them nor provided any sort of comfort during the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq.

It adds that the Iraqi Government is eager to maintain dialogue with the conflicting Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, and this was emphasized by the deputy prime minister a few days ago when he said the government call for dialogue with the Kurdish forces is still valid.

The newspaper stresses that the U.S. efforts to maintain the siege on Iraq directly harm the Turkish interests that have already been harmed in various fields by this unjust siege which the U.S. Administration maintains to pressure the Iraqi people and the countries that used to have economic and commercial ties with them, including Turkey.

The newspaper concludes by saying that the U.S. forces presence in the region represents a provocation to the national feelings of the Turkish people, and is an obvious attempt to play the card of separation in the region. The Turkish Government is aware of the threats posed by this card on all countries of the region and not only Iraq.

Sources: Cooperation With UNSCOM May End

95AA0191A Jerusalem AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Baghdad Increases Aggressive Tone Against U.S. and Ekeus, Washington Denies Disturbances in al-Ramadi Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The Iraqi Government is moving toward halting cooperation with Rolf Ekeus, head of the international inspection team. Iraqi sources said that his recent visit to Baghdad, after which he said that he had failed to solve the biological weapons problem, may be the last.

The sources indicated that the Iraqi Government had lost hope of any positive step by the Security Council to lift the embargo and that the government's hardliners, who oppose yielding to the inspection teams and their debilitating demands, had gotten the upper hand and were heavily influencing Iraqi decision-making.

Iraqi newspapers reflected this change yesterday when they together launched a virulent attack, their most violent, against the United Stated and Ekeus.

They again asserted yesterday that Iraq was determined to confront the "conspiracy" by the United States, which was using the international embargo to "bring the country to its knees."

The semi-official newspaper AL-'IRAQ wrote: "Iraqis are determined to inflict the final defeat on the U.S.-led camp of faithlessness, evil, and aggression."

The ruling Ba'th Party's newspaper AL-THAWRAH accused Washington of attempting to "bring Iraq to its knees by maintaining the embargo." It added: "Our efforts and adherence to our rights will ensure the ending of the embargo. These are the master key and strong safety valve before which all the bets of the United States and her vile satellites will collapse."

Iraq accuses the United States of attempting to prevent any easing of the embargo imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, mainly by pressuring the special UN committee responsible for disarming Iraq.

The chairman of the committee, Rolf Ekeus, blames Iraq for continuing to hide information about its former nuclear weapons development program, thus making the easing of sanctions unlikely at the present time.

For its part, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH wrote: "This man (Ekeus) knows he has greatly offended the Iraqi people. He has gone too far on his path, the steps of which were mapped by the United States from the first step he took on his erring course." The newspaper said that "lifting the embargo is in his power; it depends each time on his report," which he submits to the Security Council periodically. Ekeus is to submit his next report on 19 June.

The newspaper added that Ekeus's missions "seem never to end," and expressed "regret for every minute the Iraqis have wasted with him."

The attack comes a few days before Ekeus is to present to the Security Council an important report about attempts thus far to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The increased campaign against the United States and the United Nations indicates that Iraq is virtually certain that Ekeus's report will cause no change in the Security Council's prevailing inclination to maintain the sanctions imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The UN committee on Iraq says that much remains for Iraq to do before it can acquit itself, particularly regarding its activities on the biological weapons program.

Iraq insists it has fulfilled all of its obligations under Security Council resolutions necessary for lifting or easing the embargo on the export of Iraqi oil.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said it could not confirm the occurrence of riots in central Iraq last month; however, reports indicating that government "atrocities" had provoked riots could be believed.

Iraqi opposition broadcasts had said that local tribes had attacked President Saddam Husayn's mansion in the city of al-Ramadi after more than 60 persons had been executed on charges of involvement in an attempted coup. Neither the Baghdad government nor independent sources have confirmed the reports.

In a written reply to questions on Tuesday evening, the U.S. State Department said: "We have received similar reports; we are not in a position that allows us to confirm the details." But the State Department did say: "However, in light of the past record of the Saddam Husayn regime, reports of the occurrence of such atrocities can be believed."

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Customs Service in New York said that three persons had been arrested yesterday on the charge of attempting to ship sensitive materials to Iraq in violation of the U.S. trade embargo on Baghdad.

The spokeswoman, Jeanette Rappaport, said yesterday: "Three persons were arrested this morning in New York for attempting to export zirconium illegally and perhaps in violation of the embargo on Iraq."

Zirconium is a metallic element similar to titanium.

The spokeswoman said that the metal "could be used in certain operations related to nuclear materials." She mentioned no other details.

She said that the three had been arrested on the charge of conspiracy to export prohibited materials. The charge carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 10 years.

U.S. customs officials and officers were scheduled to hold a news conference later today about the charges.

Rabin, 'Arafat To Attempt 'Partial Agreement'

TA2206181195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat next week in a bid to finalize a partial agreement on the West Bank issue in anticipation of 1 July. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the main obstacle is the Palestinians' demand for a timetable covering all stages of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, including those to be implemented after elections in the territories, slated for November.

By 1 July agreements will be achieved concerning the transfer of eight additional civilian powers to the Palestinians. Understandings will also be reached regarding the location of the ballots in East Jerusalem and the procedures governing the election of East Jerusalem residents for the Palestinian Authority council.

Sarid: Comprehensive Peace Means a Full Withdrawal

TA2206171095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Shlomo Ganor and Me'ir Kohen in the studio on 22 June — recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ganor] Minister Sarid, the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff will meet in Washington in a few days. What is expected from this meeting? Are we headed toward an agreement with Syria?

[Sarid] I very much hope so. Yet, there is one lingering question. There is no doubt that Syria has changed. Everyone who has been there, who knows, and who monitors it, says there has been a change. The one big, as yet unresolved question is: Is President al-Asad really determined to make peace, do business, strike a deal with Israel in the near future? We do not yet have a final answer to this question. If indeed President al-Asad means business [last two words in English], intends to sign a peace agreement with Israel, an agreement will be made.

Currently we are talking about the security arrangements. I suppose that when we attain security arrangements and a timetable that we find satisfactory, Israel will have to make one of the most difficult decisions — perhaps the most difficult one — it has ever made. The decision is to withdraw from the Golan Heights. I repeat: peace with Syria — and not just Syria, also Lebanon and the entire Arab world — a comprehensive peace [shalom kolel] means a full withdrawal [nesiga kolelet] from the Golan Heights.

[Kohen] Down to the line of 4 June 1967?

[Sarid] Let us not deal now with the final line. The final line will match our satisfaction on the other issues. I have always believed that the final line should be the international border; this is right and fair, and this is what should be. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] What is the Israeli Government demanding of President al-Asad in order to alleviate the fears of the Israeli public and to strike the deal you spoke of?

[Sarid] Had I been al-Asad's secret adviser — which I am not, regrettably — I could shower him with advice. For example, I believe that the way the negotiations are conducted now is not the desired method. It would have been better for the Syrian president to sit with the Israeli prime minister or, if we do not want to begin with the highest levels right away, we can start with the foreign ministers. If this level is not desired as well, I invite the Syrian environment minister — a position I am happy to say exists in the Syrian cabinet — to meet me at his convenience. My agenda is quite full, but I would make room for that.

[Kohen] There were reports that you met Syrians in Paris.

[Sarid] Yes, the journalist who reported this story phoned me and told me that he saw me sitting with Syrians in Paris with his very eyes. I told him: Look, I find this hard to deny because I wish that your report were true. Regrettably, however, I have not been to Paris recently, so I could not have been seen there.

[Ganor] What would you add to the framework of the confidence- building measures that Israel is asking from the Syrians, in addition to your invitation to your Syrian counterpart?

[Sarid] I would suggest that if Israel pledges such concessions — and it is pledging very difficult concessions — I believe the Syrians must meet us halfway on two main issues: one, security arrangements. There are certain issues pertaining to the security arrangements, on which I will not elaborate at this time, which for us are a must. We have to implement them. Two, normalization — it must be full, and not because we are capricious. The citizens of Israel must feel, sense, and see the advantages of peace. They will have to personally realize, with their very eyes, that this is peace for all intents and purposes. Once they have a cup of coffee in Damascus, many Israelis will see this as proof that indeed this is a new era in the bilateral relations between Israel and Syria. If the Syrians are not willing to have normalization, I find it hard to see how we could ever attain an agreement.

[Ganor] Do you believe it will happen in 1995?

[Sarid] This is very desirable, because I have noticed, based on recent reports I received from the Americans and others, that al- Asad again purchased a watch and is aware of the timetables. It is very desirable for this to happen in 1995, although I reject the assumption that it would be impossible to hold negotiations in 1996 because it is an elections year; 1996 is a year worthy of holding negotiations and reaching positive conclusions.

Sarid Said To Favor Ministate in Gaza, Jericho

TA2306111795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jun 95 p 7

[Article by Steve Rodan: "Part Two of Gaza/Jericho First: A Ministate]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yosi Sarid munches on a salad as he welcomes Palestinian journalists to a briefing on the future of the territories.

"Eat," he says. "Help yourselves."

The environment minister stops chewing as he describes how the Labor-led government views IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria. He pledges an agreement will be reached no later than a few days after the July 1 deadline.

The first step will be an IDF withdrawal from more than three cities in the territories, followed by Palestinian elections and a second withdrawal. Finally, within months, a Palestinian state will emerge.

The Palestinian guests appear skeptical, however, even as Sarid becomes more enthusiastic. "This will be the most dramatic development in the history of our bilateral relations," he says. "Please share my optimism."

Sarid's conception, expressed at his June 5 meeting with Palestinian reporters, is not only meant to assuage the Palestinians, government sources say. Sarid — a key player in the current negotiations with the Palestinians — and other senior officials are working on charting the government's course after Palestinian elections. Several government sources say the aim is to allow for Palestinian sovereignty in at least part of the territories before the Israeli elections, scheduled for November 1996.

As these sources view it, the status of Gaza and Jericho will advance to the level of a mini-Palestinian state; the rest of the territories will still have an Israeli presence. The goal, the sources say, is to complete the foundations of some sort of Palestinian state should the Likud, which opposes the PLO-Israel accord, be swept into power.

"The optimistic scenario is that by the time of (the Israeli) elections, there will be a situation of sovereignty minus in most of the West Bank," says MK [Knesset Member] Dedi Zucker of Meretz, who is regarded as close to Sarid.

With only a week left to July 1, officials are raising various ideas about the government's approach on the Palestinian negotiating track. Some, particularly Prime Minister Rabin, favor a drawn-out IDF redeployment that will not affect areas they want to retain in a final settlement, such as the 'Etzyon Bloc, the Jewish suburbs of Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.

Sarid and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are said to be urging a bolder approach. The most detailed course presented to Peres and senior government planners has come from a US professor, Jerome Segal. Segal is head of the Washington-based Peace Forum and is close to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and to Meretz leaders.

In 1988, in the first year of the uprising in the territories, he helped 'Arafat draft the so-called Palestinian declaration of independence.

Segal says he first presented his plan to Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, who urged him to meet with government leaders. "He said it was an interesting idea whose time has not yet come," Segal says.

The professor arrived in Israel in late March and within hours met with senior Foreign Ministry officials — Yo'el Singer, the ministry's legal adviser, and deputy director-general Eytan Bentzur. Later, he discussed his plan with Peres.

Segal says his plan is continuation of the 1993 Gaza/Jericho First accord for Palestinian self-rule.

As he sees it, Israel should offer the PLO sovereignty in Gaza and Jericho immediately after Palestinian elections, planned for the end of the year. The rest of Judaea and Samaria would have the current status of Gaza, which is something just short of sovereignty, while allowing for Jewish settlements.

Israel would agree to having the new Palestinian ministate recognized by the United Nations, Segal says. The two countries would then sign a peace treaty that would regulate Jewish settlements in the territories.

The aim of the proposal is two-fold. A Palestinian ministate within the next year, he says, would alleviate the pressure on 'Arafat to immediately enter into negotiations with Israel on such seemingly intractable issues as the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinian right of return.

Under the Declaration of Principles, final-status talks are to begin in May 1996 and end three years later. In the short term, a Palestinian state would undermine the Likud's threat to torpedo the Rabin government's accord with the Palestinians.

"The starting point for this is that there is a 50-50 chance that the Likud will win the election," Segal says. "What would happen then? There would be renewed settlement, which will lead to a new intifada, more violence and bloodshed. It might not be the PLO which does this. It could be Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

"What could head this off?" Segal asks. "A Palestinian state with a formal treaty with Israel to regulate settlements. Then many in the Likud would see this (Palestinian state) as a given. Many of them would say that if a Palestinian state of Gaza and Jericho is the final status, we could live with it. So the last thing they would want to do is ruin it with more settlements that would upset the apple cart."

Segal says Peres and his aides listened closely to the proposal. He recalls the foreign minister as being "noncommittal. He said, 'Go to 'Arafat and see if he is interested.'"

'Arafat was Segal's next stop, but the PLO chief did not seem excited about the idea. Segal recalls 'Arafat responding that a senior Israeli official — government sources say it was Peres — had several weeks earlier proposed a Palestinian state immediately in Gaza instead of IDF redeployment in Judaea and Samaria.

"He ('Arafat) is caught up in the July 1 deadline," Segal says. "His focus is on the short term. He said maybe this is a possibility after Israeli army withdrawal and Palestinian elections."

At his meeting with Palestinian journalists, Sarid calls for questions. To his surprise, most of them concern Israel's negotiations with Syria. The minister returns to the Palestinian track and starts by reestablishing his credentials.

"If you are observing very closely the statements of the prime minister and the foreign minister," he says, "you will find that my opinions are not very far from Mr. Peres's opinions."

Sarid says Israel has been liberal with the Palestinian Authority. The Rabin government has allowed 'Arafat to conduct diplomacy in violation of the DOP [Declaration of Principles].

THE JERUSALEM POST has learned that Palestinian passports which have already been recognized by several countries, are being produced by a computer company located near Haifa. The cover is dark green; the paper is from Germany.

"We are not observing very closely his steps," Sarid says. "Security, security is the main issue on the agenda. Security is the No. 1 and the only serious issue on the agenda."

Sarid ends his pep talk to the Palestinian journalists with a pledge. "We will fulfill the obligations to ourselves, to our neighbors, to the world," he says. "We will reach the comprehensive peace. Now I will join you by eating."

The minister raises his glass in a toast. A Palestinian editor suggests they drink to the Israeli and Palestinian states. Sarid agrees. "Let's raise our glasses to the Palestinian state that will be established sooner than expected," he says. "Lehayim! [Good health] "

Katyusha Rockets Land in Western Galilee

TA2306042795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two volleys of Katyusha rockets landed a little less than an hour ago in the western Galilee. Our correspondent Moti Eden reports that bomb disposal experts are trying to determine where the Katyushas fell. Our correspondent added that the local residents did not enter shelters. It has just been reported that several residents were lightly injured in the Katyusha attacks.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0400 GMT on 23 June reports that "one man was killed and eight people were wounded in the two Katyusha volleys."]

One Reported Killed; Vacationers Leave

TA2306055395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One man was killed and eight others were wounded when Katyusha rockets landed in the Galilee this morning. The dead man was a foreign worker at a tourist site. Professor Sha'ul Sasha, director of the Nahariyya Hospital, told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that one of those wounded is in moderate to serious condition while the others suffered light wounds. Ambulances evacuated the wounded to the hospital in Nahariyya. Prof. Sasha told Qol Yisra'el that the injured people would be discharged from hospital in a few hours. Two of those wounded are foreign tourists, and the others are Israeli vacationers.

Two volleys of Katyusha rockets were fired at the western Galilee after 0600 [0300 GMT] this morning.

One of the volleys struck a tourist site. The residents of the western Galilee have entered air raid shelters. Yehuda Shavit, a local council official from the Galilee, told Qol Yisra'el that the Katyushas had also hit two settlements in western Galilee. There were no casualties in these settlements, but damage was caused to property. Shavit said that all the tourists had left the area and the tourist spots were now empty. Our correspondent Moti Eden reports that the authorities have just issued orders to evacuate all vacationers further south. The Israel Police reports heavy traffic jams on the northern roads. [passage omitted]

Rabin Holds Consultations on Hizballah

TA2306133995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced that measures to deprive Hizballah of excuses to fire Katyushas were discussed in consultations held in his office at noon today in the wake of the Katyusha attack on the Galilee early this morning. It was also decided that Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq will depart for Washington to meet with his Syrian counterpart as planned.

Mr. Rabin expressed the hope that life in the Galilee will return to normal today. He called on Israeli citizens to visit the Galilee as a manifestation of solidarity between the home front and the northern border settlements. The prime minister was speaking in a meeting of the Israeli Institute for Democracy in Caesarea.

Referring to the demonstration held outside the chief of staff's home a few days ago, he said that protests outside the private homes of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers were tantamount to crossing a red line. The army is the most unifying factor in the nation, he said, and if extreme elements have anything to say about what is going on they may demonstrate outside the prime minister's home and office but not outside the homes of army officers.

Reacting to Rabin's remarks, Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu told Qol Yisra'el that he agrees with the prime minister's call on Israelis to visit the Galilee and not to start demonstrations outside the homes of IDF officers. At the same time, Netanyahu accused the prime minister of getting the IDF involved in politics by sending the chief of staff to negotiations in Washington, part of which are of a political nature. The only issue the chief of staff should discuss with his Syrian counterpart is halting the terror in south Lebanon, which is controlled and exploited by Syria. Netanyahu went on to say that the government has tied the IDF's hands with regard to its activities against Hizballah.

Major General Levin Warns Hizballah

TA2306121295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Amiram Levin, the commander of the Northern Command, warned Hizballah that it was leading the civilian population it professes to care about and among whom it resides to the very brink of disaster. Every time there are Lebanese casualties as a result of SLA [South Lebanese Army] defensive operations, Hizballah attempts to score points by firing rockets at Israel's northern settlements. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] retaliates, and it is the Lebanese civilian population that ultimately suffers, the Northern Command commander said.

Maj. Gen. Levin refused to answer our correspondent Moti Eden's question as to whether the army's hands were tied in south Lebanon. The army, Maj. Gen. Levin, must make sure that civilians are not harmed from either the security or economic standpoint and the IDF will find a solution to this at the appropriate time.

Poll: Firmer Response to Shelling Favored

TA2306102495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jun 95 p 6

[Poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute headed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Should the government order the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to respond more firmly to Hizballah provocations even if this leads to Katyusha shelling on civilian settlements in the north and/or a crisis in the talks with Syria?

Yes, 65 percent; no, 26 percent; no response, 9 percent. [passage omitted]

The poll, which was conducted on 20 and 21 June, encompassed 502 interviewees, who constitute a representative sample of the overall adult population. The margin of error is 4 percent.

IDF Stepping Up Alert Level After al-Khawaja Murder

TA2306102395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are stepping up the level of alert in the wake of the assassination of Islamic

Jihad activist Mahmud al-Khawaja. Israel flatly denies the charge that it was involved in the murder.

Security sources said that while al-Khawaja was a senior activist in the Islamic Jihad, he was not on the wanted list and was not suspected of carrying out direct attacks against Israel. Nevertheless, the sources note that he might have been involved in planning attacks. They said al-Khawaja was once detained in Israel for disturbing the peace and anti-Israeli activities, but was freed after several months.

The sources also said that the murder might have been due to rivalry among the various organizations in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The joint patrols by the IDF and the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip were increased following the murder and the checks at the Erez and Nahal 'Oz exits from the Strip have been tightened.

['Amira Hess on pages A1 and A10 of HA'ARETZ reports that "a leaflet disseminated by the Islamic Jihad at al-Khawaja's funeral warns Rabin 'to prepare coffins for his soldiers.' The leaflet also attacked the Palestinian Authority, which 'hunts the fighters, detains them, and abandons them to the Israeli Mosad.' A different pamphlet said the organization would avenge al-Khawaja's death. 'His death ignites the struggle, which will not end until we uproot the stinking traitors.'

["'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm, also issued a leaflet saying that it had ordered its people (two months ago) to calm tempers inside Gaza and not to do anything to heat up the atmosphere, 'but it appears that Israel is extending its long arm into Gaza, and the time has come to cut it off.'"]

IDF Redeployment To Require Budgetary Cuts

TA2206113195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld and David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday blamed the settlements in outlying areas of Judaea and Samaria for the high cost of redeploying the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Speaking at the Israeli Management Center's annual meeting in Jerusalem, Rabin noted that two settlements of 30 families each that he visited on Tuesday [20 June] "will cost us $250,000 per family to protect, even though the (settlements') contribution to security is absolutely nil."

However, Rabin contrasted those settlements to those close to Jerusalem and the Green Line. He noted that he was not speaking of the 'Etzyon Bloc and settlements along the Alon Road.

Rabin also took exception to the government's investments over the Green Line which have resulted in "cutting out several hundreds of millions of dollars from the (US) loan guarantees."

He bemoaned the fact that the spending to protect the settlements will come at the expense of investments in tourism and industry. Nevertheless, he reiterated the government's commitment to protect those settlements.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu responded that first Rabin creates a serious security problem with his plan to withdraw from Judaea and Samaria, then he blames the settlers for its cost.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat also attributed the high cost of redeployment to the dilemma created by the structure of the diplomatic process, whereby "we don't eliminate the sources of the conflict, i.e. the Jewish settlements, and the Palestinians are unable to protect them. As a result, we have to pay a lot of money."

Earlier in the day, Rabin held consultations with Shohat and senior IDF officers to consider the cost of the redeployment and bypass roads to protect setters. The military asked for NIS [new Israeli shekels] 350 million in addition to the NIS 370m. advance the Treasury already transferred.

Although Shohat refused to indicate how much the redeployment will cost, reports say it will reach NIS 2b. Shohat balked at the military's demands, fearing they will create budgetary problems with serious repercussions for the economy.

Rabin reportedly told Labor ministers earlier that one way to offset the added costs of redeployment is to cut the budgets of all ministries.

"I would not conceive of stopping the peace process because of budgetary problems," said Shohat. Nevertheless, he said that such large additional expenditures require a reshuffling of budgetary priorities, including within the defense budget.

"The defense establishment cannot live as if the money is coming from the sky, they also will have to make some adjustments, otherwise why will other ministers agree to cut their budgets," Shohat said. [passage omitted]

Third Hebron Mosque Shut Over Hamas Material

TA2206114195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another mosque has been closed in Hebron. The security forces closed the Nimr

Mosque for four months because they found inflammatory Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] documents there. It is the third Hebron mosque closed in the past two weeks.

'Peace Watch': Palestinian Police Violating Accords

TA2206115495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Police breached the Oslo Accords in allowing armed militiamen to keep their guns at home instead of handing them in to police, according to Peace Watch, a private monitoring organization.

Peace Watch released a 21-page report yesterday based on its own and newspaper interviews to show that the police had collected only a small part of the arms and explosives located in the Gaza Strip.

The police also breached the Cairo Agreement by allowing some militant personalities to carry not only licensed pistols but also submachine guns which are not permitted by the accords.

There are, in effect, five militias in Gaza apart from the police, Peace Watch said. The Palestinian Police and the militias have come to an understanding that in return for their non-violence inside the autonomous areas the police will not actively search for militia weapons in private homes.

Palestinians Say 4 Wounded in Incidents With IDF

TA2306102295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian sources said that four West Bank residents were wounded yesterday in incidents with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

The sources reported that an incident between residents and IDF soldiers developed yesterday in the center of Ramallah in which three Palestinians were shot by soldiers. Eyewitnesses said that some 100 demonstrators hurled stones and iron bars at the soldiers during a demonstration in solidarity with 1,000 prisoners on hunger strike demanding to be released.

Military sources said that residents of the al-Jalazun refugee camp in the Ramallah region stoned an IDF patrol. The soldiers reacted by firing gas and rubber bullets and detained one of the demonstrators. A second man arrived at the hospital with medium wounds after having been shot in the leg. He claimed that he was shot by soldiers in the same incident.

An IDF soldier was lightly wounded yesterday afternoon when a vehicle in which he was traveling with other soldiers was stoned near Abu-Dis in the Bethlehem area. The soldier was taken to a hospital.

In the Hebron area, it was reported that young Palestinians stoned settlers' vehicles. In one incident, the settlers fired in the air. There were no reports of casualties. [passage omitted]

Settler Campaign Detailed; Spokesman Comments

TA2206143595 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[FBIS Translated Text] Operation Eretz Yisra'el First — conducted by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza — continues. Yesterday, the council announced that it has completed the building of another road, this time between Bet El and the Ramallah-Nabulus road, across from the al-Jalazun refugee camp.

The operation started with an invasion of houses in the Barqan area, near Ari'el, a site that the settlers now call Ma'ale Yisra'el. Presently, the site is inhabited by three families and 25 singles who were especially drafted for this operation.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 22 June carries a report by Arbel Aloni on page 2 saying that "the attorney general has notified the prime minister that he is not changing his opinion, according to which the invasion of the empty houses in Barqan is illegal. Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir made the decision after reviewing additional material he was presented by Attorney David Rotem, the council representative." In reaction, Council Spokesman Aharon Domb said that he "would have been surprised had the attorney general ruled otherwise. We have always maintained that his opinions are political, not legal. We, in any event, will further expand our activities of building throughout our country, mainly in Judaea and Samaria."]

Last week, the operation headquarters built roads and fenced off territories near the settlement of Hashmona'im in the Modi'in region, and built roads from 'Anatot, via Kefar Adumim, to Vered Yeriho.

In Talmon, north-west of Ramallah, settlers seized land they claimed had been earmarked for the construction of an industrial zone. In a place dubbed Talmon B, a settlement set up in the previous operation, settlers prepared the ground where, according to them, public buildings are to be built. Two days ago, the operation reached Qarney Shomron and 'Imanu'el, where a road has been completed and territory fenced before it was taken over.

The above cases are all part of activity that has been going on for quite a while and about which the Civil Administration and the local councils in Judaea and Samaria are aware. So far, nothing has been done to stop the activities. According to Council Spokesman Aharon Domb, the operation is financed by the council with money that was donated to it. He estimated last week's operations cost 350,000 shekels.

The current operation is to last through to 3 July, when a large rally will be held in Kfar Sava. According to the operation headquarters, two new operations will start on 5 July. One will be a "settling campaign" that will include invading all the houses that the government has completed over the past three years and which stand empty. The other operation is dubbed "popular activity in Jerusalem," but the organizers refuse to reveal more details.

"The aim is to save the territories from the PLO," Domb told DAVAR. "They give the area to the Palestinians, including building authority. This is a departure from the concept that had prevailed up to three weeks ago." According to him, "we will not use physical force, only moral force. We are on the ground every minute of the day. The prime minister will soon have to get three-quarters of the army down here to keep the area quiet."

Domb further said that in the past, operations were conducted to win the public's support. "Today," he says, "we would rather lose points with public opinion in order to win the battle."

King Husayn Contemplates Pluralism, Regional Issues

MM2306092995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with King Husayn by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Amman on 19 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khayrallah] Some people in the Jordanian opposition are claiming that there is some kind of backing down as far as the democratic experiment in the country is concerned. What is your reply to that?

[Husayn] I believe that there is no retreat from democracy. The opposite might be true. There is an offensive against democracy by those who call themselves the opposition. There are attempts to prove that that process cannot succeed. As far as we are concerned, we are absolutely convinced that unless the Arab individual has a right to participate in the making of his future, express his views, and enjoy all his rights like the rest of the people in this world, it will be no use and there is no hope. That is why we are committed to the democratic line, dialogue, and political pluralism until God's will is fulfilled. We approach the issue on the basis that pluralism does not mean reviving the dead and returning to the policies of the past and offering these policies to the public. People are much more mature than we think. The people of Jordan need studied programs that will be defended by conscious and committed youth. At the same time, as I have repeatedly said in the past, crowding impedes movement. All these many parties are big quantitatively but small in as far as their membership size is concerned. With time we are bound to reach a stage where the situation will change and the number [of parties] will drop to a reasonable limit, people will build parties that will defend their rights and give them reasonable and rational options, and political pluralism will succeed and human rights will be respected.

[Khayrallah] But do you not believe that there is some government failure in putting the message across to the ordinary citizen?

[Husayn] Indeed, in the recent period it seemed as if one was shouldering more than he is capable of shouldering directly. There are still residues from the past. The media, that is the state media, consider themselves neutral, as if they were not committed to the state's policy and the defense of that policy, and to confronting with argument and logic those who resist it and at the same time opening the way for opinions and counter opinions. At any rate, that will be remedied with time.

[Khayrallah] When do you expect the fruits of some of your political achievements to appear?

[Husayn] Within a short period, I believe, that is to say between three and five years at the most. If matters proceed as we wish them to proceed, the situation will be different from what it is now and the country will be able to finally stand on its own two feet without the need for any foreign aid. It will build its economy, its people will develop, and opportunities will be created for them to live the life they deserve.

[Khayrallah] That is the logical context of the situation, but people want quick results. What can you tell people to make them understand that matters cannot proceed as fast as they expect?

[Husayn] I agree with the people in wanting to make gains as soon as possible so that a citizen feels the difference between the life he had and the life he deserves, but I do believe that the period I mentioned for reaching our target would be a great achievement. Actually, there is a kind of conflict at the present time. On the one hand there is that view and, on the other, there are those who cast doubt on the possibility of fulfilling it, but I believe they are a minority. The vast majority of people, the good people in this country who are the essence, support what we have achieved. We beseech God to grant us success in serving them and in giving them stability and prosperity so that this country will be in a position to express its views frankly on all matters and issues and, through that, serve its nation and set an example and a model which it could offer to its brothers and sisters for possible adoption of positions in the interest of the Arab people and future.

[Khayrallah] Do you see any hope for Arab reconciliation or improvement in the general Arab atmosphere?

[Husayn] Yes, some signs are beginning to appear. I repeat that any step toward understanding, integration, and consolidation of relations on the strongest foundations will be met by several steps on our part.

[Khayrallah] Do you expect something tangible in this connection in the near future?

[Husayn] I wish we could see some crystalliztion in reality soon, particularly on relations with brothers where there was some kind of boycott or coolness at one stage.

[Khayrallah] Could you be more specific?

[Husayn] We naturally hope that relations with our sister the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be restored to what they were before, and we can perhaps build these relations on stronger foundations in the future. That is what I wish and I believe it will be achieved, God willing.

[Khayrallah] Regarding the settlement process in the region in general, are you satisfied with the way matters are proceeding?

[Husayn] In the current circumstances, I believe that some fundamental progress has been made. As far as we in Jordan are concerned, the truth is that everything that was agreed upon has been implemented. We await a major event, namely the economic summit to be hosted in Amman before the end of the year. We hope to be able to put forward a concept for the region's future in the context of peace. That will be an opportunity for the Arabs and whoever wants to participate with us in making the change and the shift from what we are to what we should be in many fields.

At the Palestinian-Israeli level, I believe that matters are proceeding in the right direction. There are difficulties, obstacles, opposing forces, and attempts to obstruct but I am very hopeful that the process will continue to move toward fulfillment of Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative which we recognize, deal with, and support with all our capabilities and resources.

On the Syrian track, I believe there are indications of some positive movement. I have been convinced from the outset that brother President Hafiz al-Asad is committed to the target of just and honorable peace. We all wish peace to be comprehensive and want what has been achieved so far to be just a portion of the great building we wish to see erected.

[Khayrallah] How are you helping the Palestinian track? Do you believe that the measures taken in Jordan against some extremists serves that track and give the Palestinian leadership the assurance that Jordan is not working against it?

[Husayn] After a long dialogue and experience, we believe that the Palestinian side and the Palestinian leadership is fully convinced that our only aim is fulfillment of the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil. In that respect we only deal with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people] since the 1974 Rabat summit conference, and the leadership of the PLO. We believe that that leadership lived through and experienced tribulations and made sacrifices, struggled, and endeavored until it reached certain convictions regarding its duty of serving the Palestinian people in all circumstances. That leadership shouldered its responsibilities with courage and we should all support it. I do not see any advantage in any effort that leads to the disintegration of the Palestinian front at this particular stage. That, in my view, would be unreasonable and cannot be acceptable in any way. We deal with the PLO. We do not recognize any other party and do not accept to have others operating in Jordan in any way against the PLO, which is leading the Palestinian march.

[Khayrallah] Is there any hope of an improvement in relations with Syria after the coolness in these relations?

[Husayn] As far as we are concerned, there is no problem. I have said that more than once. Whenever the brothers in the Arab homeland are willing to take one positive step toward us we will reciprocate with several steps.

[Khayrallah] On the Iraqi issue, how do you understand the U.S. policy on Iraq?

[Husayn] There is a big difference really between the Jordanian view and my own personal view [on the one hand] (and the U.S. position on Iraq) [on the other]. I really am eager to do the impossible in order to soon see the day when Iraq again becomes part of this nation and becomes strong and capable, and to see the Iraqi people live again. We cannot bear the Iraqi people to suffer the way they are suffering today. Neither Iraq nor the Iraqi people deserve that. We hope this problem will be solved in the near future.

[Khayrallah] What is the point of disagreement with the Americans, in your view?

[Husayn] The point of disagreement, if there is one, lies in the prevailing ambiguity on that issue. We believe that the world has two options: It either says frankly — and this may or may not be acceptable in this day and age — that as long as there is a certain regime and a certain leadership in Iraq there will be no concessions or change in the current position. I believe that would be a serious infringement of peoples' right to choose their way and it could constitute a serious precedent which may not be acceptable in this world. But it would still be better than continuation of the policy of sedation and giving hope without ever turning it into reality, while the suffering constantly accelerates. The other alternative is dialogue. I believe that, in this case, there has been no dialogue. There has been no dialogue with Iraq since 1990 despite its attempts to initiate dialogue with others. Here we discern the following situation in relation to Haiti: Before the forces — supported by the United Nations and the Security Council — landed and before these (U.S.) forces began moving toward Haiti to restore democracy to the country and change the situation there, the United States, in the final moments, sent three important figures for a dialogue with the people who were in power there. That dialogue led to the landing of the U.S. forces without any significant losses, contrary to expectations. The crisis was resolved through dialogue. So why was dialogue possible there and why has dialogue with Iraq been rejected since 1990?

[Khayrallah] Do you not believe that what is required is to reach a situation with Iraq similar to that of Haiti, in other words a change of regime there, but without dialogue?

[Husayn] I believe that the continuation of the situation as it is does not serve anyone's interests. An end must be put to the Iraqi people's suffering in one way or another.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe there is any hope of Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation?

[Husayn] Well, by God, one cannot speculate on that but in the end the people remain, and the differences we see are just features of our lives at one stage. The Arab people are bound to get their rights and reach a point where they have the institutions through which to express themselves and their right to live, and then there will be integration and the differences from which we suffered will disappear. Whoever understands this fact makes a contribution toward reaching that end and whoever resists it and tries to stop the clock will find himself detached from reality. The attempts to stop the wheel of motion are the factors which lead to extremism, despair, deprivation, and loss of human values.

[Khayrallah] What is the cause of the positive development in Jordanian-Iranian relations?

[Husayn] Nothing at all. Relations have existed for a long time. I have always tried to tell the brothers in Iran that if relations between us were to be developed further there must be a dialogue and a meeting at the highest level so as to be able to chart our path and determine what we agree on and disagree on. None of that has occurred so far but dialogue at various levels has continued and I have received a letter from brother President Rafsanjani explaining Iran's position on various issues as well as Iran's suffering as a result of the way that some in this world view Iran. As far as I am concerned, that was a very welcome step and was evidence of trust and reflected the brothers' endeavors to contact one another and explain their common suffering and views.

[Khayrallah] Have you sensed any change in the Iranian position on the Middle East peace process?

[Husayn] Our position is clear.... I have not sensed anything and I have not detected any Iranian position regarding Jordan that would indicate a negative attitude toward the positions we deem our right to take.

[Khayrallah] How do you view the Lebanese situation in general?

[Husayn] Lebanon is dear to us and we always sympathize with it and its people.... That is the truth. We, at any rate, hope that its case will be tackled in the context of the continuous attempts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the near future.

[Khayrallah] Do you not believe that there are attempts to promote solutions at Lebanon's expense?

[Husayn] I have nothing to say about that. I hope it does not happen.

Islamist MP's Preventing Debate of Anti-Israel Laws

JN2206113095 Amman THE STAR in English 22-29 Jun 95 p 1

["Special" to THE STAR by Hamdan al-Haj]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Wednesday was a good day for the Islamic Action Front (IAF). In an unprecedented showdown with the Government, the IAF succeeded in overturning the deportation of 10 Palestinians, and flexed their muscles by preventing meaningful discussion of the extraordinary session's agenda. Their morale has also been boosted by a sweeping Islamist victory in Tuesday's al-Zarqa' Chamber of Commerce elections.

IAf deputies stormed out of the Parliamentary session on Wednesday to protest the Government's deportation of 10 Palestinians from the Gaza Refugee Camp near Jerash. Among the deportees was Faraj Shalhoub, a journalist working for the Islamist weekly Al-Sabil.

The deputies remained for almost 40 minutes in the foyer of the Islamic Cultural Centre, the venue of the session.

The repeated appeals and mediations by fellow deputies fell on deaf ears. Their position remained unchanged until they met with Interior Minister Salamah Hammad who promised to repatriate the exiled Palestinians.

The Interior Ministry had detained the 10 Palestinians, and finally decided to deport them.

Their first destination was the United Arab Emirates, which refused to allow them entry on the grounds that their travel documents were not in order. The authorities in the UAE put them back on the same flight, which returned to Amman. Upon their arrival however, they were barred from leaving the plane.

Jordanian authorities originally intended to put them on a plane to Iran, but then decided to return them to prisons within the Kingdom. They were finally released yesterday after pledging they would not engage in any suspicious activities.

After the interruption caused by the Islamist deputies the session resumed. Deputies passed 14 articles of the Labour Law, the first major achievement of the extraordinary session.

The Chairman of Parliament's Legal Committee, Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi was also absent from Wednesday's session for some time. Later he rejoined his colleagues, but didn't participate in discussons. The rapporteur of the Legal Committee and other deputies were also absent.

The session was characterized by frequent and lengthy interruptions by opposition deputies, who appeared determined to prevent the Government from introducing the law that would scrap anti-Israeli legislation. it was apparent that the deputies were not prepared to deal with the issue.

Islamist deputies appeared to be well organized, with a clear idea of their goals and tactics. Their goal was to prevent the laws from being discussed.

Several deputies said these tactics would make it impossible for Parliament to extend discussion of the Labour Law throughout the extraordinary session. If this situation persists, the anti-Israeli laws will remain on the books.

This could spell problems further down the road. The possibilities are many, and one of them could be the dissolution of Parliament.

Former Prime Minister, Deputy Tahir al-Masri, other former ministers, and several deputies expressed their dissatisfaction at the way the Labour Law was being discussed. They called upon all those present to finish with this law as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Islamists celebrated a stunning victory in the al-Zarqa' Chamber of Commerce elections. According to IAF Deputy Dr. Muhammed 'Uwaydah, "the results were 100 percent as we planned. I bet with cabinet members on that. Later I assured the ministers that only planners win, and the Islamic movement has a good role to play."

Islamic Leader Defends 'Moderate' Approach

MM2206115295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the Islamic Action Front, by Bassam Baddarin in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Baddarin] The most important criticism directed against the Islamic current is its extreme moderation — a trait that has made the government always the master in all situations. What comment do you have on that?

[Mansur] We do not agree with the statement because moderation as a principle constitutes one of the characteristics of the Front and the Islamic movement. Furthermore, I do not accept that we are too moderate. Besides, our moderation is not at the expense of the Front's constant principles, but is rather a part of them. Moderation and a middle-of-the-road stance are some of the characteristics of the Islam in which the Front believes, and consequently any call for extremism does not constitute any part of the Islamists' work. In view of this concept of ours, we Islamists have been in general victims of the extremist waves. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] You are the pivot for all the opposition parties, which revolve in your orbit. Do not you think that this state of affairs marginalizes the opposition and doubles the responsibilities on your shoulders?

[Mansur] The pivot is actually the interest of the nation and the homeland. With proper respect for the other parties, the Front takes great care to ensure that it forms part of the coalition, in which all parties are equally represented. It is evident that the areas of agreement among the participants in this coalition have been growing wider and wider with every passing day, particularly as these parties have been witnessing the government embarking on a great many practices that do not serve the people's interests and do not comply with the democratic slogan that it proclaims.

[Baddarin] Your failure to hold the conference of forces opposed to the normalization and your submission to that failure exposed opposition shortcomings. Do you acknowledge that as a fact?

[Mansur] The failure to hold the aforementioned conference constitutes a failure not for the parties, but for the government. Because the parties succeeded in drawing up a joint, advanced formula to protect the homeland and confront normalization. The government had pinned all its hopes on the parties' failing to reach an agreement on common ground. But the 11 opposition parties' preparatory committee acted with a high sense of responsibility by affirming its determination to hold the conference at the proper time and place and thus frustrated the official circles' plans to find an opportunity to strike at the participants. I believe that the intensified series of meetings being held since the conference was banned with a view to creating favorable conditions for holding the conference indicate the success and not the failure of the parties. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] Permit me to go back to the question of the conference, as we are keen to have more details about your decision concerning the convocation of the conference.

[Mansur] All I have to say in this regard is that we intend to hold the conference shortly, but in a manner that does not constitute a violation of the law even in the sense of the government's understanding of the law. We believe that the government has no right to ban the conference. The preparatory committee has shown extreme flexibility in order to convince the government that there are no grounds for its fears. But all this flexibility has been to no avail. I believe that the government did not wish at all to see the conference held, and it only agreed at the beginning in the belief that the conference would be unable to convene owing to the existence of what it imagined to be international differences among the participants. But when those concerned proved their ability to agree, the government retracted in a manner that lacked any objective basis.

[Baddarin] Can you fix a latest date for us for the convocation of the conference in its new attire?

[Mansur] God willing, we hope it will convene within a month. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] Despite your concentration in your statements on the unconstitutional character of the current extraordinary session [of the House of Representatives], the session is still continuing. Why is that?

[Mansur] The results achieved by the House of Representatives do not attest to the constitutional character of this session. When we said that the session was unconstitutional, we were not talking off the top of our heads. Indeed, we based our statements on the results of our consultations with men who know the law and the Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] Why then did you continue to participate in the session despite being convinced that it was unconstitutional?

[Mansur] We participated in the session in order to ward off as much as we can of the dangers that threaten our people, which lie in the promulgation of laws that neither meet nor serve the interests of the people, foremost among them the rescinding of the boycott. We also decided to participate in order to fulfill the trust placed in us by the people. It is evident from this that the Front's deputies make it a point to exercise their right to keep watch on the government through their interpolations and questions. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] Why does the government always succeed in defeating you in the House of Representatives?

[Mansur] I do not accept the statement that the government and its deputies have always been the victors. I believe that victory cannot always be measured by the number of votes acquired by any of the two sides; rather, it is measured by the extent of the people's conviction. Furthermore, it is necessary for the opposition to show greater coordination in its stances — which necessitates the emergence of new opposition leaders. Many deputies say that they support the treaty and oppose normalization and yet vote on the government's side, while at the same time claiming to be against corruption and the withdrawal of freedoms. Common grounds for agreement with these deputies should be found.

[Baddarin] Has the opposition embarked on efforts in this regard?

[Mansur] Perhaps we do need to make more concerted efforts. Perhaps we should also realize that it is impossible to achieve complete identity of views and directions under the present conditions. This means that it is more advantageous for the opposition to find even the minimum of common ground for agreement.

[Baddarin] You concentrated on the [Jordanian-Israeli] agreement, but failed to stop it. You also failed in the battle to prevent the normalization, and later you failed in the battle over the boycott laws. Does all this mean that you accept the fait accompli?

[Mansur] Some people misunderstand us. We have not conceded defeat in respect of the "capitulation," the normalization issue, or the abrogation of the boycott laws. Our concentration on the boycott laws does not mean that we have abandoned our concentration on the question of "normalization" or what is called peace under abnormal conditions. Our eyes and our hearts are set on all these issues and on combating the treaty with the enemy and its results.

[Baddarin] What practical options do you have?

[Mansur] Our first option is to create and bolster convictions about the gravity of the current projects that are connected with the peace processes. I believe that the people have been interacting well with us in this regard. We always have numerous means which guarantee our ability to continue with our work. [passage omitted]

[Baddarin] Have you talked to the prime minister about what you call excesses by the minister of the interior?

[Mansur] There are dialogues being held with the prime minister, but they are not at the desired level. When we talk to him we talk about all the homeland's troubles, including the questions of public freedoms and the recession that is taking place in this regard, for which we do not blame one particular minister to the exclusion of other ministers.

[Baddarin] What can you say about the current minister of the interior?

[Mansur] I believe that the minister of the interior upholds one part of the equation but obstructs the other part (human dignity and the homeland's security). He enforces the second part only. We say that there can be no security in the homeland in the absence of dignity for the citizen. The two should go side by side. In this context we can say that the actions of the government and most prominently those of the interior minister aim at preventing any voice from being raised in the country other than that of the government, consequently any opposition voice is considered in the government's eyes to be based on an unlawful grounds.

As far as we are concerned all options are present, and we classify the ministers according to their attitudes to the dignity of the homeland and the citizens, although martial law practices are on the increase day by day and democracy has become flimsy.

[Baddarin] What is the evidence that democracy is in decline, in your opinion?

[Mansur] It is too optimistic to say that democracy is "in decline." Matters are actually much worse. Some people feel that what is taking place is a "retreat" from democracy, while others say democracy was never born at all, that all that has happened is that some democratic manifestations have come to exist under undemocratic conditions. Negative aspects are many and varied, despite the fact that the judiciary rang a warning bell after the annulment of the verdicts in the cases of Mu'tah and the Afghan.

[Baddarin] If you are the majority party, will you form a government?

[Mansur] Then it will be our right to form the government, on the basis of a program and as a team and not on the basis of just naming ministers. So, if we form the majority, then the natural thing will be for us to form the government. But we believe that the so-called democratic process is still no more than a "premature baby." The present stage has dictated that the will of the government was the majority. I assume that a fair and civilized electoral law guaranteeing honest elections and supervised by the judiciary and not by the Ministry of the Interior will give the Islamic tendency its right to representation. I am sure that in such a case we will win more votes than we did in the 1989 parliament, when 22 out of the 26 candidates on our list won.

[Baddarin] Should you attain power, will you guarantee plurality and apply democracy, or will you suppress opposing views?

[Mansur] We have no monopoly on sincerity and patriotism. We support all good people in this homeland. I believe that our colleagues in the other parties can testify to this fact. We are anxious to preserve democracy as a strategic and not as a tactical option. In any case, we have a great deal to offer to the people.

[Baddarin] The leftists, or at least some of them, say that you would set up gallows as soon as you took office. What do you say to that?

[Mansur] Those who say such things either do not know the Islamists or they base their views on the measly information they glean from Orientalist and Westernized sources.

[Baddarin] Then are you expecting to take office?

[Mansur] We believe that for us to rule in accordance with the dictates of the greatest code of law is a duty that we should seek to discharge gradually and by lawful means through the will of the people, this being the decisive solution that separates what is "magic" from what is "practical."

Prince Hasan, Peres Discuss 'Technical Issues'

JN2206155695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan today met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who attended the meeting, said the meeting focused on discussing an array of technical issues related to the agreements that are being studied now and which are expected to be concluded in accordance with the timetables set in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Al-Kabariti added that several issues related to the Palestinian-Israeli track were also discussed.

The Israeli foreign minister left Amman after the meeting.

Israel's Dayan, Shurdum Meet on Bilateral Matters

TA2206121095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by On Levi and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch; and General Tahsin Shurdum, chief of Jordanian Intelligence, yesterday held a meeting on security issues in Amman. The encounter was held in compliance with the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty according to which senior officers from the two countries are to meet periodically. Yesterday's meeting addressed the implementation of the security aspects of the peace treaty, as well as other issues pertaining to the two armies.

Army sources said last night that the encounter was held in a cordial atmosphere and has contributed to normalization between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Iraq With Russia's Posuvalyuk

JN2206171995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti today met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk, who is currently visiting Jordan.

They discussed ties between the two countries and the means to improve them. They also discussed the latest developments in the regional and international arenas.

The two officials also stressed the need to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people and to take the necessary measures to end the embargo imposed on Iraq in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially since the Russian Federation is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a mediator between Iraq and the Council.

Party Leader Fails To Attend Disciplinary Session

JN2206135395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 24

[Report by Ahmad al-Shuruf]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lawyer Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Zu'bi has failed to attend the first session of the Jordanian Bar Association [JBA] Disciplinary Board which was set to be held yesterday evening. Chaired by Lawyer Dr. Ratib al-Junaydi, the board will question the visit to Israel by Lawyer al-Zu'bi, secretary general of the Al-Ahrar [Liberals] Party, in violation of the JBA's resolutions banning any form of dealing with Israel.

For his part, Lawyer Ahmad al-Zu'bi said that he was not officially informed of the date of the Disciplinary Board's session, thus he did not even report to the JBA's headquarters. [passage omitted]

Paper Cites 'U.S. Official' on 'Terrorism'

NC2306103195 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Jun 95 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The UNITED PRESS NEWS AGENCY has cited U.S. officials as saying that Middle East Airlines [MEA], which the U.S. Administration has allowed to operate in a limited capacity in the United States, is known to have recently transported in the Middle East a number of internationally infamous extremists. Further, its ground crews are known to have been penetrated by Hizballah members.

But the officials defended the decision to allow the Lebanese company to sell airline tickets in the United States to non-Americans and said that this step, which was announced last week, was a calculated one, aimed at giving Lebanon greater support in the war against terrorism.

In an AGENCY report on 17 June, a senior U.S. official in the fight against terrorism said: "In view of what we could get from the Lebanese, this might be worth the effort (...) [punctuation as published] But it is not yet clear whether this step was a wise one or not."

Officials revealed that in return for Washington's "concession," the Administration asked Beirut to hand over the "terrorists" known to be operating intermittently from Lebanon who are wanted in the United States and Europe. They added that among them is Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-al-'Abbas) [words indistinct] the 1985 hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro, which ended with the killing of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer. Another wanted person is "'Imad Mughniyah," a Hizballah security official known to frequently travel on MEA planes. He has been wanted by the "FBI" for over 10 years. The United States believes that Mughniyah took part in the 1983 blowing up of the U.S. Marines in Beirut, which killed 243 Americans, the hijacking of an American airliner in 1985 where one American was killed, as well as other attacks.

The officials noted that the FBI received information on 7 April that Mughniyah was travelling on a MEA plane from Sudan. The plane was due to make a stopover in [word indistinct] in Saudi Arabia but Saudi officials, at the last minute, refused to let the plane land.

According to actions taken [words indistinct] in its offices in Washington and New York, but its planes will not be allowed to land in the United States.

The U.S. officials who say that this company transports "many evil people" say the embargo will not [words indistinct] if Lebanon extradited those wanted for trial in Europe and the United States.

They add that Lebanese officials must purge the company's ground crews of "Hizballah" members.

(U.P.)

Buwayz States Conditions for Resuming Peace Talks

NC2206173295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official Egyptian news agency, MENA, this evening cited Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz as specifying three conditions that Lebanon requires in order to resume peace negotiations with Israel if there is enough progress on the Syrian-Israeli track in the next few days that it moves from mere headlines to feasible security arrangements.

MENA adds that the three conditions are that a U.S. proposal should be sent to Lebanon to be studied; the essence of this proposal should not contradict Lebanon's principles for joining the peace process; and security arrangements should be finalized so that negotiations can be serious and not plunge Lebanon into a new tangle of procrastination.

Official: Syrian Track's Progress Positive for Nation

NC2206174495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Chamber of Deputies Speaker Lawyer Elie al-Firzli has stated that the resistance in the south will not stop until Israel announces complete readiness to implement Resolution 425, which stipulates its unconditional withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders.

In an interview with the BBC, al-Firzli stressed that the resistance stems purely from the Lebanese people, who are trying to end the Israeli occupation. He added that Lebanon and Syria will not relent on this issue.

Answering a question, al-Firzli said that the negotiation process is clearly contingent on the strengthening of the aspects of the U.S.-Lebanese-Syrian relationship. The main thing is to use the momentum of the Syrian-Israeli track to benefit the Lebanese track. This shows the importance of the Syrian track to the region as a whole.

Hizballah Targets in South Attacked by IAF Jets

TA2306081895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] jets attacked terrorist targets in south Lebanon this morning. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that IAF fighter jets attacked Hizballah targets in the eastern sector north of the security zone following this morning's Katyusha attacks. The spokesman reported that all our planes returned safely to base.

Hizballah Guide Cryptic on Settlement Chances

MM2206130495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: Temperature of Lebanon's Engagement Settlement Rises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, religious guide of Lebanese Hizballah, has said that "there are things being arranged behind the scenes which we know nothing about." He said yesterday that "the temperature of Lebanon's engagement in the settlement has risen higher than before, and the question falls within the framework of U.S. election calculations. There are also Israeli terms that Syrian might not be able to meet, and Israel and the United States may want it to make concessions."

Fadlallah added: "There are complications, but there is some movement in the developments that have occurred — which helps to move matters toward some positive results in favor of the settlement."

He pointed out that the security confrontation against the Israeli occupation in Lebanon is confusing U.S. and Israeli policies, creating security problems in the occupied territories in Lebanon, and leading to a political argument in occupied Palestine.

Shiite Leader on Need for Revamping Strategy

NC2106115295 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Jun 95 p 12

[Second and last part of interview with "Lebanese scholar" Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by unidentified correspondent in Lebanon; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] In your capacity as an Islamic thinker, what do you consider to be the most important need of the Islamic world? Do you believe in a change in the propounding of the jurisprudential [feqhi] viewpoints in the current world?

[Fadlallah] In its move toward the future, the Islamic world should certainly have principles and bases within a jurisprudential infrastructure so that it can participate in planning for the kind of future that awaits the Islamic world.

As Muslims, it is our duty to base the infrastructure of our political, social, and economic lives on Islam. Therefore, this generates the need for a new understanding and insight into Islam.

I do not mean a new perception or putting something into Islam that is not there. Unfortunately, some of our juridprudents try to present Islam in a rigid manner, in other words, in the same style as was understood by the people 100 years ago. It is therefore necessary that the Shiite mojtaheds [experts on canonical reasoning] should be aware of the time factor, the needs, and the problems of people today. They should combat and resist all the contempt and vilification of Islam and Muslims by the world infidels and should give them an appropriate response.

It is here that their canonical reasoning can be imbued with dynamism and can resolve their various complex problems. Consequently, Islam will enter this modern era without becoming absorbed into it. It is obvious that when Islam will be able to reign over contemporary humanity, it will be able to solve social, political, and economic problems.

The other issue is that it is obligatory for us to enter the era of technology and scientific innovation. Our society and ummah will thus be able to have a presence in the power center so that it can gain strength by being informed of the reasons for power and the latest knowledge and can thus acquire capabilities. There is no other option, as power and knowledge are basics that can give stability to nations. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Should we seek new ways of combating Zionism and the Zionist regime under the aegis of the new economic, political, and security developments?

[Fadlallah] It is natural that Zionism should seek to benefit from the scientific and cultural successes in the world in the social, political, and economic fields. Therefore, when we confront Zionism, we are forced to enter the social arena to combat it. This means that we should be armed with the cultural means and a perceptive and realistic attitude toward all international issues so that we can combat Zionism, which is a racist movement, and fight it on the basis of our campaign against racism in the world.

Accordingly, we should seek to fight against Zionism in all fields, as it intends to impose its corruption and devastation on our world. It does not matter to Zionism if the world is taken to the brink of destruction as long as its own interests are safe and safeguarded.

Therefore, if a struggle against the Zionist mode of thought is merely encapsulated within verbal beliefs, it is not enough. The issue is to combat the direction and line of Zionism aimed at destroying the world. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What has been the fallout of the presence of the autonomous Palestinian government in the occupied areas? How do you view the future of the Islamic movement in Palestine against this backdrop?

[Fadlallah] The current position of Palestine is that the autonomous government under 'Arafat's leadership is functioning on the principle of proving to Israel, the United States, and Egypt that it is sincere in its war against Islamists and in the destruction of the Palestinian intifadah. The Israelis fear the intifadah because it has consistently inflicted blows and irrevocable damage on Israel, especially in the form of martyrdom-seeking operations, one of which took place recently.

Therefore, it appears that in the future by utilizing all Israel's existing capabilities, the pressure on the Islamic movements will be doubled. [passage omitted]

In conjunction with such moves, efforts are being made to drive a wedge between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and to generate differences between them. We see that in the fact that the autonomous government has entered into talks with Hamas but has ignored the Islamic Jihad. It has even gone farther by issuing orders against some of the Islamic Jihad members.

I believe that Israel, the United States, Egypt, and some Arab countries—one of them probably Jordan—have entered the arena and are seeking to bolster the autonomous government headed by 'Arafat. Despite this, Israel and its ally, the United States, do not want a Palestinian government. Rabin recently stated that the Palestinians should accept that they will only have a government limited to Gaza and this means that the West Bank will remain under Jewish rule.

It is natural that the Palestinians will not be satisfied with this plan, but the Zionists are seeking to keep the Palestinians preoccupied in trivial issues by magnifying issues of their own immunity and security so that they can obstruct the implementation of the agreements with the Palestinians and motivate them to destroy the intifadah and the Islamic movement.

In this manner, the autonomous government will naturally be weak and Israel will be able to keep it entrenched within the present precincts without permitting it to evolve into a Palestinian government.

This will become more obvious when the issue of peace with Arabs materializes in all circumstances and mechanisms. [preceding word in English]. However, there are foreseeable tribulations ahead for the Islamic movement due to the fact that this movement has not attained the necessary unity and cohesion in the occupied territories.

There is much economic, military, and other pressure on the Islamic movement. The crux of the matter is that the Islamic movement, regardless of its form, should continue to exist. However, it will encounter extraordinary difficulties and heavy turbulence unless some new changes take place that will allow this new movement to forge ahead toward a bright future.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Bosnia-Herzegovina

NC2206133195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has announced that Lebanon and Bosnia-Herzegovina have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today. The two countries' ambassadors in Tunis have signed a joint statement to this effect. The statement will be released simultaneously in the two countries.

In their statement the two countries pledged to promote their friendly relations. For its part, Lebanon stressed its support for the unity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Vice-President Denies Early Agreement With Israel

MS2306093295 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 23 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by David Gardner: "Syria Dashes Hopes of Early Accord With Israel"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus — The Syrian Government yesterday dashed hopes of an early breakthrough in peace talks with Israel set to resume in Washington next Tuesday, describing the gap between the two sides as "vast".

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's vice-president, dismissed as "baseless" persistent reports that Syria and Israel had already reached agreement in principle on the mutual security arrangements that would follow a deal returning the Israel-occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

"There is no agreement yet, no semi-agreement, nothing of the sort yet," Mr Khaddam, the nominal number two to President Hafiz al-Asad in the Syrian regime, said in a rare interview with foreign journalists in Damascus. "The gaps between the Israeli and Syrian positions are still vast."

The vice-president warned that there would be no deal without full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan — captured during the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967 — and an exactly equal pullback of forces on both sides of the Heights.

"If the Israelis do not agree to withdraw to the June 4, 1967 line" — the frontier prior to the war — "we can say that the result of the negotiations will equal no more than zero," Mr Khaddam said.

"The security arrangements... have to be balanced, reciprocal and equitable," he said. But he added that this meant that the depth of Israel's military withdrawal would have to match Syria's.

Israel argues that because its territory is far narrower than Syria's, it should not have to withdraw the same distance, and wants "confidence-builders" like monitoring devices at the exits to Syrian tank bases. Following US success last month in getting the two sides to agree on the principles which should govern negotiations of the security question, some US and Israeli officials have implied that Damascus has accepted that 'parity' of demilitarisation could mean an "asymmetrical" forces withdrawal. Mr Khaddam yesterday unambiguously ruled out this possibility.

According to senior western diplomats familiar with the negotiations, the secret 'non-paper' put together by the US to get the two sides talking at army chiefs of staff level refers to "equal security arrangements" — Syria's demand — but also to "possible exceptions", a wording put there to placate Israel. They underline that all that has been achieved so far is purely procedural. "The substance today is as difficult as it was at the beginning," says one.

Mr Khaddam yesterday bore out this analysis. "What has been agreed are certain concepts and aims relating to security arrangements, and the talks are about how to apply these practically," he said. He also ruled out any significant reduction of Syria's armed forces.

Beyond the security impasse lie sharp differences over the timetable for returning the Heights, and the historical dispute over the Golan's rich water resources. Israel wants "normalisation" of relations including open borders and the exchange of embassies, to precede a full withdrawal, phased over three years.

Mr KHaddam yesterday ridiculed this ambition. "How can anyone imagine normal relations with a single Israeli soldier remaining on one inch of Syrian soil?" he asked.

The water dispute, part of the fuel for the 1967 War has yet to be addressed, although the right-wing opposition Likud party in Israel cites it as a principal reason for not surrendering the Golan. Mr Khaddam, however, said flatly that 'water which springs from Syrian land is Syrian water."

A senior Arab official close to the negotiations predicted "there will be no peace agreement without an agreement on how both sides use water. The real debate about the Golan is about water, not about security."

Israeli Statements Cast Doubt on Washington Talks

JN2306140995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: From time to time, the Israeli officials reiterate that Syria is asking for much in return for peace, and that it is asking for more than the other parties have got.

The objective of these statements is known. They aim, among other things, to cast doubt on Washington's military talks before they begin. Therefore, it is important to say that Syria only asks for its land and rights, and that Israel does not offer much or less because the Golan has always been a Syrian territory and an inseparable part of Syria's history, geography, culture, and identity.

The occupation does not give Israel — as it did not give any other party throughout history — the right to keep one inch of the Golan. The occupation is an aggression, and peace requires the elimination of aggression.

We should remember that those who were forced to leave the Golan after the 1967 aggression have become hundreds of thousands now. They are waiting for the time in which they will be able to return to their houses and land and resume their normal life there away from any threat.

Syria has made it clear over the past years that it wants a just and comprehensive peace, and that peace for Syria is a strategic option. However, peace cannot be realized in the Middle East and cannot remain solid in the face of events and changes unless it is just and comprehensive. Justice requires that every Arab party restore its occupied land and rights. Comprehensiveness requires dealing with various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and on all fronts. Based on this, Syria has said that the Golan will not be a subject of bargaining and will not be relinquished, and that the peace borders are the borders of 4 June 1967.

All know that the Syrian-Israeli peace talks have faced several crises and reached the point of failure more than once as a result of Israel's attempts to bargain on the Golan and evade the basic requirements of peace.

Washington's military talks late this month are a real test for Israel's intentions and credibility. The previous military talks were stopped shortly after they began when Syria felt that Israel did not have sincere intentions, whether concerning withdrawal from the Golan or reaching equitable [mutakafi'ah] arrangements after this withdrawal.

The U.S. diplomacy made efforts to breathe life into the stalled talks. Thanks to these efforts, it has been able to reach an agreement on the broad lines of security arrangements. Military officials from both sides will meet again to translate the equitable and even [muta'adilah] arrangements to maps on the ground. But such arrangements require full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, as well as implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The arrangements are the result of the withdrawal, and the withdrawal is the basic thing and is key to peace, security, stability, and comprehensiveness in the region.

Syria does not ask for more or less, but it asks for its land and rights that are ensured by the international resolutions and the UN Charter. Without the restoral of all Syria's land and rights, peace will remain a mere delayed project, not only with Syria, but also in the entire Middle East.

Press Urges U.S. To 'Apply Pressure' on Israel

JN2306065595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH underlines the need for Israel to subscribe to international legitimacy, saying: Since its endorsement of the peace initiative, Syria has declared its commitment to international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions, which provide for an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, from southern Lebanon, and from other occupied Arab territory. In addition to its commitment to the peace initiative, Syria has provided several opportunities for pushing the peace process forward whenever it was stalemated thanks to the Israeli positions, which are grounded in intransigence, maneuvering, and a determination to derail peace efforts.

AL-BA'TH notes that Syria's position has earned the world's respect and appreciation and managed, thanks to the wisdom of leader al-Asad and his far-reaching perspective on the overall regional and international events, to bring the peace process back on track.

The paper adds: In his talks with the envoys that have visited Damascus, leader al-Asad has refuted Israeli claims, using good reasoning and reasonable arguments. Using his well-known wisdom, firmness, and acumen, he has confronted all Israeli maneuvers, arguments, and conditions. Thus, he has defeated all its claims, particularly those regarding security arrangements or withdrawal from the Golan.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Based on this, the statement that the upcoming Washington talks will put Israel to the test reflects a firm truth that is in line with the objective of achieving a just and comprehensive peace, which will not materialize except through complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and the establishment of parallel [mutawaziyah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements. Otherwise, there will be no peace. As for Israel, a few days from now, it has to prove whether or not it subscribes to international legitimacy.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue in its commentary today, saying: It is Israel which is required to vindicate its credibility and subscribe to the bases of peace. A commitment by Israel to the bases of peace lies in effecting complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in the Golan, southern Lebanon, and elsewhere, and also in returning rights to their owners, as provided for in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the U.S. initiative. Such commitment remains the pivot and focus of each and every move made or meeting held in the course of the efforts to achieve peace. The upcoming Washington talks, important as they are, are part of these efforts. These talks will be successful if they produce an Israeli willingness to enforce equitable [mutakafi'ah], parallel [mutaqabilah], and equal [mutasawiyah] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders and serve as a catalyst for pushing the peace process forward to make it achieve the desired goals.

AL-THAWRAH says that the U.S. cosponsor of the talks must show seriousness and apply pressure on the Israeli side, which is obstructing the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We in Syria have declared our full commitment to the bases of the peace process and our readiness to vindicate it. We want nothing from the United States but to honor its commitments and pledges with regard to the efforts to achieve peace on the basis of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula.

AL-THAWRAH notes Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements and the renewed talk of limited withdrawals on the Golan by Israeli officials, asserting that this is an indication that these officials are evading the requirements of peace. Occupation is synonymous with aggression. Moreover, aggression is the antithesis of peace.

AL-TAHWRAH adds: He who desires security and peace must abandon fallacious concepts and demonstrate full compliance with the bases and elements of peace. This is because peace would ensure him security. Hence, if it really seeks peace, Israel must abandon its previous policy and commit itself to the bases of the peace process launched in Madrid. By so doing, peace and security for all would be achieved.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: From the outset, when it announced that its pursuit of peace reflects a strategic option, and that peace must ensure the restoration of Arab rights, dismantle Israeli occupation, and enable all peoples of the region to live in security and peace, Syria asserted its commitment to the bases of peace and the terms of reference upon which the peace process was based. Additionally, Syria has shown a positive attitude and honesty in its handling of peace efforts. It will continue to do so as long as these efforts continue to uphold the well-known bases of this process. If no progress has thus far been achieved to promote this process, Israel alone is to blame.

Radio Urges Israeli Commitment to 'Full Withdrawal'

JN2206151595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Military talks dealing with the security arrangements on the Syrian and Israeli sides will begin in Washington in a few days.

These talks will obviously be held in light of data. As is seen by the whole world, this data is now a reality that cannot be changed. Among this data, or rather this reality, is the fact that Syria chose peace as a strategic option that will draw the future of the region. Syria did not use peace as a means to carry out maneuvers or to gain or waste time. This is so because Syria is aware of the vitality and importance of peace for its people, for the region, and for the whole world.

These realities also include the fact that peace, which Syria chose as its strategic option, should stem from Syria's national interest and from the supreme Arab interest. Peace should also conform to international legitimacy and its resolutions. These resolutions provide for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories to the 4 June 1967 lines.

On this basis, Syria considers full Israeli withdrawal a condition for full peace. Syria is not demanding anything more than its own rights. It is not embarrassing anyone, cornering anyone, or making impossible demands. Had these rights been impossible to achieve, the United Nations would not have made them the substance of its three pertinent resolutions; namely, Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

This consistent Syrian position taken at the beginning of the peace process and the continued Syrian moves stemming from this position have strongly convinced everyone that Syria does not relinquish an inch or an iota of its national soil. This means that there is no room for talking about partial withdrawals from the Golan, and, thus, no room for talking about partial solutions.

This data, which is now a firm reality, has prompted the peace-lovers in the world to appreciate Syria, so everyone now acknowledges that there will be no peace in the region without Syria and that the only real peace which can last is the peace for which Syria is working. This peace stems from the resolutions of international legitimacy.

At the same time, however, influential international forces, particularly the U.S. Administration which is cosponsoring the peace process, are aware that Syria is not the only party to the peace process and that this process is not proceeding in one direction because there is a second party; namely, Israel. Israel is thus required to prove that it chose peace as a strategic option. Such a proof will have a specific formula; namely, Israel should make an announcement committing itself to full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and from southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 lines and that the peace process should be a means to accurately and completely implement such an Israeli commitment.

It goes without saying that such an Israeli announcement should supposedly produce a new consistent Israeli position which will cancel the distribution of roles or the conflict of positions between this or that Israeli official. Such an announcement will also raise the peace process above internal disputes and keep the Israeli position away from unnecessary provocative proposals such as holding a referendum [on Israeli withdrawal from the Golan] and testing the [Syrian] intentions.

Moreover, such an announcement will keep the Israeli rhetoric away from provocative expressions which encourage the extremists and the enemies of peace inside Israel such as the Israeli description of withdrawal from the Golan as a painful choice.

In fact, withdrawal from the Golan will only be a strategic option. Abiding by justice and international law should not be painful, especially since Israel will not lose anything if it withdraws fully from the Golan, nor will it relinquish anything.

In view of these data and realities, military talks will be held in a few days in order to study the security arrangements which should be equal [mutasawiyah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and balanced [mutawazinah] on the Syrian and Israeli sides.

It is naturally understood that while Israel is interested in its own security, Syria is also equally interested in its own security. The military talks, which will begin in Washington on 27 June, will naturally put the Israeli intentions to the test. The Syrian intentions have been announced through an extremely accurate and just position; namely, full [Israeli] withdrawal in return for full peace.

Tehran: Al-Asad Expresses Solidarity With Iran

LD2206235495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, met the Syrian president today and delivered a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to a report from Damascus by the Central News Unit, at the meeting the Syrian president sent his greetings to the exalted leader [Khamene'i] and thanked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his message. He said: The issues raised in the message coincide with our beliefs and points of view and we agree with them totally.

The Syrian president, describing the ties between the two countries as strategic and referring to the conspiracies by arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: We consider all those conspiracies to be against ourselves. Any issue which upsets Iran will upset us as well.

India

Editorial Views U.S. Stand on Trade Policy

BK2006104795 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 19 Jun 95 p 15

[Editorial: "Patience Pays More"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What do Americans and north Indian jats [Hindu caste] have in common other than an insatiable appetite for hard work? Both lack finesse and both tend to confuse extreme directness with transparent honesty, which perhaps explains why first US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and then US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown have sounded off on the Dabhol deal. Both have suggested that if India cancels the deal, foreign direct investment in India could dry up or slow down to a negligible trickle.

Indians can be forgiven for viewing this as a threat being orchestrated by the US government. And even if they are wrong about this, they would not be wrong in believing that the US had deliberately adopted a trade policy that works on threats. The approach appears to have a certain amount of popular, if not corporate, sanction because of the widespread perception in America that foreigners are to blame for America's economic decline. Until now India had not felt the pressures of this policy because it was not participating in the global economy. That privilege was left to Japan, Brazil, Mexico, France, South Korea, China and a few others. But now that India has decided to join the party, it is being given the full treatment. This means that India has to now learn to cope with the undiplomatic ways of elected American officials.

The staring point of this process of learning must be a basic fact: the American politician is as unsophisticated and ignorant of the niceties of civilised discourse between nations as his counterparts elsewhere in the world. What makes him a bigger nuisance, however, is that he represents the world's most powerful country and is determined to let everyone else know it. And what makes it dangerous is the fact that he is willing to be used, wittingly or unwittingly, by his country's businessmen seeking to further their own corporate ends. India therefore must learn to separate the two even they appear to be acting in concert.

But as the fuss over the Enron deal shows, neither Ms O'Leary nor Mr Brown has succeeded in helping Enron. If anything, they have made things worse for it. Not just that, they have made things worse for all American firms, which was not what they started out to do. At the same time they have also made the task of reformers in India more difficult. Under such circumstances it is hard not to be on the defensive when reforms are equated with American pressure.

On their part, the lesson which Americans have to learn is that patient diplomacy is far more productive than arm-twisting. For more than a decade now, starting with the voluntary export restraints over cars, going on to steel and semi-conductors, successive US administrations have twisted Japan's arms. It hasn't helped US firms much in gaining access to Japanese markets. The only gain has been the postponement of the demise of these industries in the US. European countries on the other hand have done things in a more orderly and courtly manner. As a result their access to not just the Japanese but all markets has increased by more than that of American firms in the same period. India, for instance, has more going with the Germans and the British than it does with the Americans. What is worse from the American point of view, America had only recently begun to win over public opinion. Its lack of diplomatic skills now jeopardises this gain. Such short-sightedness could only be American. If, as a result, others gain at its expense, America will blame it on them, rather than trying to mend its ways.

Entry of U.S. 'Junk Food' Chains Assailed

BK1906141195 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES (SUNDAY MAGAZINE) in English 11 Jun 95 p 4

[Article by Maneka Gandhi: "The stark realities"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government decision to give permission to Pepsi Foods Ltd. to start sixty restaurants in India: 30 each of Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken marks the first entry of multinational meat-based junk food chains into India. If this is allowed to happen, at least a dozen other similar chains will very quickly arrive on our soil, including the infamous McDonald's which has been taken to court several times for its irresponsible treatment of environment and labour. Needing to escape the bad publicity it has received in the West, it now hopes to find new markets in India. As plans stand Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and Pizza Hut (PH) will be opening their first restaurants in Bangalore in June and 22 such restaurants by the end of the year. A company called Venky's is to supply chicken to their outlets.

The implications of allowing junk food chains into India are meanwhile quite stark. As the name denotes, all the foods served in KFC are chicken based and fried. This is the worst combination possible for the body and can create a host of health problems for our younger generation ranging from obesity, high cholesterol, heart ailments and many kinds of cancer including colon cancer. PH products are a combination of maida (white flour), cheese and meat — again a combination that causes similar diseases of the body.

A recent survey of junk food in the United States of America by the BBC shown in India on May 20/21 showed that there were 80 million obese Americans suffering from cardiovascular and other diseases. These people spend almost one fifth of their incomes on medicines — all to cure ailments due to junk foods from chains like KFC, PH and McDonalds. The documentary stated that a large number of diseases simply did not exist until these meat-based junk food chains came in. Is this what we want for our new generation? So far, India has had no junk food. Fast food, yes — specially South Indian snacks — but no food harmful for us as a people.

KFC has stated that its meat will come from chickens that are grown and killed by the most modern methods. This means that all their chickens are being fed on a diet of antibiotics without which Venky's could not maintain its intensive farming technique. These drugs include arsenic compounds, sulfa drugs, hormones, dyes and nitrofurans. None of these are fed to increase the chicken's health — merely to increase its weight so KFC can sell "plump healthy chickens". In actual fact the chickens are riddled with disease and a staggering percentage of them have chicken cancer (leukosis). All these diseases are transmitted to the human being — and enhanced with the fat in the oil used to fry them.

Can our health systems take care of the fallout caused by these chicken restaurants? If you were to argue that everyone in America is eating such foods, I would point you towards a 1992 US Senate Investigation into the state of cancer research. The investigations revealed that one American contracts cancer every 7 seconds. The culprits identified: processed meats and chicken in the junk food industry!

Another very common and killing disease, specially for old people and children is salmonollosis. It makes no difference whether the chicken comes from a modern abattoir or not, over 50 per cent of the chickens carry these highly pathogenic bacteria. These pathogens do not disappear with ordinary cooking.

The PH chain will also be using Venky's chickens plus meat from local slaughter-houses. According to PH's application to the government they had said that they would be setting up their own suppliers using the latest technology in meat processing, dairy production, vegetable production, bread production. Now we are told that they will be buying from the regular market. So what expertise are they bringing into India? Their only contribution is the setting up of restaurants — a business in which Indians hardly need external advice.

The introduction of mass production meat food businesses in India will lead to an increased slaughter of goats and sheep in unhygienic conditions. In the US, before such businesses are given licences or allowed to operate, the civic administration ensures that these businesses construct their own modern abbatoirs.

The companies have guaranteed to generate employment. What level of employment are we looking at? Al Kabeer, an NRI [nonresident Indian] slaughterhouse cum meat processing centre in Andhra Pradesh came in with the same guarantee. Till today, in its operation of 5 years, it has given jobs to 300 people — all with salaries in the range of Rs [rupees] 500 to Rs 2000 — and created unemployment of over 3 lakh people as shown by studies done by the Environment Ministry.

Venky's Chicken on the other hand has not employed a single extra person since they got the contract for chicken supply from KFC and PH. In fact they have been encouraged to introduce more machinery and less labour. In time, Venky's will not be employing people but getting rid of its current staff. Since both these companies are doing nothing other than setting up restaurants they will be employing people at the level of waiters and restaurant managers. In their own application, they have stated that they will give jobs to 50 graduates in the first year. Is this the employment that India is looking for?

In any case, it is not very reassuring that many of the court cases against the fast food chains in the West relate to heavy handed labour practices.

Then there is the issue of the environmental impacts of junk food chains. Ironically KFC, PH and McDonald's are under major attack by citizens' groups in their own countries. Now they are welcomed into India. Worldwatch, one of the world's leading environmental institutes, states that "putting half a pound of red meat and poultry on the table each day rings up quite a tab. The meat and poultry industry is associated with environmental ills ranging from depleted and contaminated underground water to an atmosphere pumped full of greenhouse gases. When cows, pigs and chickens are raised forcibly to feed humans they absorb much of the country's crop harvest along with vast quantities of energy and water."

Modern meat production involves incentive misuse of grain crops, water resources, energy, and grazing areas. In addition, animal agriculture produces surprisingly large amounts of air and water pollution. Taken as a whole, livestock rearing is the most ecologically damaging part of agriculture.

KFC and PH insist that their chickens be fed on maize (bhutta) and soyabean. Consider the diversion of grain for this purpose. It takes 2.8 kg of corn to make one pound of chicken. Maize is the protein food of the poor. As the outlets of KFC and PH increase in number, the poultry industry will be buying up more and more maize in order to feed to the chickens. Which means that the bhutta will quickly disappear from the villages and its increased price will place it beyond the reach of the common man. Turning maize into junk chicken is like turning gold into mud.

Animal farms use mountains of grain. Nearly 40 per cent of the world's total, and more than 70 per cent of US production, is fed to livestock, according to US Department of Agriculture data. Last year, 162 million tonnes of grain, mostly corn but also sorghum, barley, oats, and wheat and 100 million tonnes of soyabean were consumed by livestock. Can India afford to feed so much grain to animals. It is already shameful that in a country taken over by famine and flood we should divert 37 per cent of our arable land to growing animal fodder.

Were all of that grain to be consumed directly by humans, it would nourish five times as many people as it does after being converted into meat, milk, and eggs, according to the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. The most immediate problem of raising animals on grain is the waste of resources. Nearly seven pounds of corn and soy are needed to put one pound of pork. The chickens being produced by Venky's eat 2.8 pounds of corn and soyabeans to make per pound of meat. Egg layers also need 2.6 pounds.

It is important to also look at the energy spent in producing feed. Enormous quantities of imported fuel are used for farm machinery and for making fertilizers and pesticides. Specialists in agricultural energy use, estimate that 14,000 kilo calories are required to produce a pound of pork in the US equivalent to the energy in nearly half a gallon of gasoline. Chicken uses just slightly less. One protein unit of soyabean, rice or wheat takes an energy factor of between 2 to 10. Beef, pork, eggs, milk, mutton take from 10 to 78! Can we in India afford this energy so that a few can eat meat?

India is now being asked to open US style factory farms. These modern poultries that are opened every day in India, these modern piggeries — who is going to pay the fuel bills? You and I. Pound for pound, meat uses more energy in its production than anything else produced in India!

Then, look at the water usage. Feed grain guzzles water, too. In Gujarat the nation's leading dairy producer, livestock agriculture takes nearly one third — the largest share — of irrigation water. All animal raising accounts for similar usage — often dipping heavily into underground water resources to irrigate the land for fodder and to feed the animals themselves. The American estimate is that it takes about 430 gallons of water to produce a pound of pork, 390 gallons for a pound of beef, and 375 gallons per pound of chicken. Thus the water used to supply meat comes to about 190 gallons per person per day, or ten times what a normal Indian family is supposed to use in one day — if it gets water at all.

And what about land use? A single sheep or goat eats the equivalent of 4 hectares of grass each year. Its average lifetime is four years — it destroys many hectares of government land before it is killed. Ninety eight per cent of the goats and sheep feed on forest land, or hillsides, roadsides, village panchayat land — on government land that is totally ravaged by the animals and has to be replanted by the government. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has a Wasteland Development programme which pays Rs 6000 per acre destroyed by goats. Where does this money come from? Your taxes. Even then this programme is not successful because the government does not have the resources or the agencies to do this repair work. Once the top soil has gone from our land, it will be decades and centuries before it can be built up again.

Forest departments get very little of the state budget — sometimes 1 per cent. So they have a limited target of a few thousand hectares a year. Apart from the free feed that our forests provide we have diverted enormous amounts of land to grow fodder for these animals — land that could have been used to grow wheat for our poor. Even then, the National Commission on Agriculture says that our grown fodder shortage is 38 per cent so more land will have to be put aside, simply to grow more meat.

Do we wish to put ourselves in the same position as countries in South America — to become a slave country that destroys itself (for destroying the green cover is the end of all life) to feed another country? Each kilo of meat may earn, say, Rs 100. But India has to spend 80 times that amount to repair the damage done in our natural resources in growing that meat. In other words, the more they sell, the poorer we grow.

The Himalayas are now rapidly being taken over for the grazing of meat animals for export. Daily, the land is stripped, the exposed soil quickly denuded from the land by wind and water. The rivers flood the eroded unprotected streambanks. Water tables are lowered. Perennial streams dry up for most of the year. How much land in Rajasthan has been turned to desert by goats? How much of Haryana is now entering the desert zone for the same reason? Soil science professors will tell you that vast stretches of our land have become arid, just to feed meat animals. For every pound of red meat, poultry, eggs, and milk, farm fields lose about five pounds of prime topsoil. These restaurants are demanding in the region of 100,000 chickens a day or more and 25,000 goats a week. McDonald's alone is considering 100,000 goats a week. Where are they going to be fed — and with what?

Ecology is the science of the interrelationship among natural processes. Every single policy that we have seen causing a crisis in America and other countries of the West is being blindly followed by the Indian government. Subsidies for goat and chicken production, no taxes on feeding or sewage disposal, no ability to protect public lands from marauding animal farmers. Already 180 million hectares in this country lie barren. We glory in feeding our rich with junk food while our poor go hungry and thirsty. The prices of grains keep going up because demand cannot meet supply — and that is because our land is growing meat for the rich of this country and for export.

In their application, PH and KFC have said that they will promote exports of Indian raw material and products within their network, worldwide. This basically means the export of processed chicken and meat to other restaurants abroad. Poultry Feed and Poultry medicines are hugely subsidized in India. This gives Pepsi Foods (the parent company) the ability to get cheap chicken here and sell it unsubsidized to markets overseas at a huge profit. All at our cost.

More subtle and longlasting cultural impacts lie ahead with this invasion of junk food. Our traditional and wholesome patterns of eating will change. We are looking at an attack on India that is changing us to become more of the consumers that the West wants us to be and less self reliant as a people.

Of course, it is not just the KFC and PH chains of Pepsi Foods Ltd that are going to cause all this damage. Once we open India up by allowing these chains, dozens more are eagerly waiting to come in. Today permission has been given to 60 outlets to open, of KFC and PH. McDonalds have also been approved for 60 outlets. These numbers will quickly increase to several thousand. Each city in America has an average of 5000 junk food restaurants. Is that what we want for India?

The multinationals don't see us as people. We are seen increasingly as consumers — and that too as consumers of products that are no longer in favour, or even outlawed, in the West.

*Supreme Court Calls For Uniform Civil Code

95AS0433A Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 11 May 95 pp 1, 9

[Unattributed article: "Supreme Court Asks Government To Have Fresh Look at Article 44. SC Calls for Uniform Civil Code"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 10 (UNI & PTI): In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court on Wednesday called for a uniform civil code for the citizens of the country: "The successive governments till date have been wholly re-miss in their duty to implementing the Constitutional mandate under Article 44 of the Constitution.

"We, therefore, request the Government of India through the Prime Minister of the country to have a fresh look at Article 44 of the Constitution and 'endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout India,'" the court observed.

A division bench comprising Mr Justice Kuldip Singh and Mr Justice R.M. Sahai, in their separate but concurring judgements, in a case where a Hindu husband had misused the absence of a uniform civil code to convert to Islam and marry a second wife without dissolving first marriage, directed the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, to file an affidavit of a responsible officer in the apex court by August 1996, indicating therein the steps taken and efforts made by the Union of India towards securing a "uniform civil code" for the citizens in terms of the court judgement.

In his judgement, Mr Justice Sahai said the government may consider the feasibility of appointing a committee to enact Conversion of Religion Act, immediately, to check the abuse of religion by any person. The law may provide that every citizen who changed his religion cannot marry another wife unless he divorces the first.

The provision should be made applicable to all Hindu, Muslim, Christian, a Sikh, a Jain or a Buddhist and provisions should be made for maintenance and succession also to avoid clash of interest after death.

The judges said the desirability of a uniform civil code could hardly be doubted but it could concretise only when the social climate was properly built up by the elite of the society, statesmen amongst leaders who instead of gaining personal mileage rise above that and awaken the masses to accept the change.

"Today it is unfortunate that there is no Raja Ram Mohan Roy who single-handedly brought about that atmosphere which paved the way for sati abolition. Nor is there a statesman of the stature of Pandit Nehru who could pilot through successfully the Hindu Succession

Act and the Hindu Marriage Act revolutionising the customary Hindu Law," Mr Justice Sahai said.

The judge said the problem today was that many Hindus had changed their religion and had become convert to Islam only for the purpose of escaping the consequences of bigamy. Obviously because Muslim Law permits more than one wife and to the extent of four.

"But no religion permits deliberate distortions. Much apprehension prevails about bigamy in Islam itself with many Islamic countries codifying their personal law to check its misuse," the judges said, adding that India being a secular democratic republic even the slightest deviation shook the social fabric.

Therefore, a unified code was imperative both for the protection of the oppressed and the promotion of national unity and solidarity, they said.

While the main judgement was delivered by Mr Justice Kuldip Singh, Mr Justice R.M. Sahai added a few pages of his own concurring with the view taken in the main judgement.

"The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India" is an unequivocal mandate under Article 44 of the Constitution which "seeks to introduce a uniform personal law — a decisive step towards national consolidation," the court noted.

The court also noted that Jawaharlal Nehru, while defending the introduction of the Hindu Code Bill instead of a uniform civil code, in Parliament in 1954 said: "I do not think that at present moment, the time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through."

"It appears that even 41 years thereafter, the rulers of the day are not in a mood to retrieve Article 44 from the cold storage where it is lying since 1949. The governments which have come and gone have so far failed to make any effort towards uniform personal law for all Indians," the court lamented.

The court said the reasons for this are too obvious to be stated. "The utmost that has been done is to codify the Hindu Law in the form of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 and the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956 which have replaced the traditional Hindu law based on different schools of thought and scriptural laws into a unified code. When more than 80 per cent of the citizens have already been brought under the codified personal law there is no justification whatsoever to keep in abeyance, any more, the introduction of a 'unified civil code' for all citizens in the territory of India,' the court observed.

Answering the questions posed in the petitions, Mr Justice Kuldip Singh, in his main judgement, said that marriage was the very foundation of a civilised society. "The relation once formed, the law steps in and binds the parties to various obligations and liabilities thereunder. Marriage is an institution in the maintenance of which the public at large is deeply interested. It is the foundation of the family and in turn of the society without which no civilisation can exist."

Mr Justice Kuldip Singh observed: "Till the time we achieve the goal — uniform civil code for all the citizens of India — there is an open inducement to a Hindu husband, who wants to enter into a second marriage while the first marriage is subsisting, to become a Muslim. Since monogamy is the law for Hindus and the Muslim Law permits as many as four wives in India, an errand Hindu husband embraces Islam to circumvent the provisions of the Hindu Law and to escape from the penal consequences."

In his concurring judgement, Mr Justice Sahai said that a unified code was imperative both for the protection of the oppressed and promotion of national unity and solidarity. "But the first step should be to rationalise the personal law of the minorities to develop religious and cultural amity. The government would be well advised to entrust the responsibility to the Law Commission which may in consultation with the Minorities Commission examine the matter and bring about the comprehensive legislation in keeping with the modern day concept of human rights for women," the judges added.

Article Questions Need for New Weapon

BK2006093095 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Jun 95 p 8

[Article by Eklavya: "After Prithvi, Any Need for Howitzers?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the Prithvi surface-to-surface missile on the production line, does India need a new calibre self- propelled (SP) howitzer? The last time India bought a howitzer (now being profitably employed in such difficult terrain as the Siachen glacier), it was plunged into a political crisis caused by allegations of kickbacks leaving the armed forces with the unsatisfactory situation of a lack of spare parts and no prospect of product improvement because of the abrogation of all contact with the manufacturers, the Bofors of Sweden.

As it is, the Bofors howitzer has only limited "shoot and scoot" capability based on an auxiliary power unit (APU) which allows it to be driven away at about 8 kmph to another site after firing a salvo of between three to six shells (depending on the estimated reaction time of enemy counter-bombardment batteries). The apparent logic for the requirement of a self-propelled howitzer is that it will provide fire-power at ranges beyond 30 km so that enemy tank and artillery concentrations can be engaged in advance of actual skirmishes between armoured units.

With the Prithvi on the battlefield this "staff requirement" becomes redundant. In fact, the Prithvi surface-to-surface missile gives greater flexibility of employment and mobility from the forward edge of battle, which could be at the very border, up to at least 220 kms (full range 250 kms) given matching surveillance and target acquisition capabilities. This it can do without being anywhere close to the battlefield and, therefore, a target of counter-bombardment weapons including battlefield interdiction aircraft (which would have to make special efforts to engage and penetrate the anti-aircraft batteries that would be deployed to protect the Prithvi launchers).

If integrated functioning of the three arms for maximum effect was the reason for the projection of the demand for a self- propelled-gun howitzer, then the advent of Pinaka, the self- propelled multi-barrel rocket launcher system, a product of Defence Research and Development Organisation laboratories, further erodes the raison d'etre. The Pinaka system can saturate an area as large as a football field over a range of 40 km. Armed with appropriate "top attack" munitions with infrared imaging (which could be common to both the Pinaka and the Prithvi warheads) a significant tank, anti-artillery capability would be available, obviating the need to import another expensive weapons system to do the same job. Besides the full-scale production and deployment of the Prithvi will enable India to retain a very credible (in fact, enhanced) "defensive defence" or "non-offensive defence" and deterrence capability that could wreak very substantial "second strike" (or retaliatory) destruction on a potential aggressor.

Military planners have long held the inherent deterrent nature of a large standing army would make a potential aggressor hesitate to launch a frontal attack, and, therefore, all the paraphernalia to support a "reactive" defence posture was either purchased outright or produced under licence. But, over the past decade, the use by Pakistan of the "low-cost option" - infiltrating trained terrorists to disrupt internal security - has rendered this doctrine redundant because there has been no Indian punitive reaction.

The full-scale induction of the Prithvi on the other hand will impart a large measure of flexible response to the Indian armed forces that could see a graduated and well-controlled escalation ranging from surgical rocked attacks on terrorist training camps and vital military establishments supporting such facilities to a "war of the cities" scenario and a full-blown war that would undercut all the advantages that nay nation using the "low-cost option" would hope to garner.

Since the intrinsic nature of the Indian defence doctrine would remain "reactive" even after the fullscale induction of the Prithvi, the requirement for several hundred self-propelled howitzers at a cost of nearly Rs 2,000 crore to back up and improve the "combat mobility" of the armoured corps and mechanised troops, the main element in the Indian deterrent force, can be held in abeyance.

By going slow on the process of production and induction of the Prithvi missile, the Government of India is allowing free rein to the import lobby on the one hand and leaving itself open to the charge of not utilising indigenously developed weapon systems to their full potential on the other. The effect of this is that tactical battlefield doctrines either become stultified and unimaginative or are a slave to prescriptions of foreign arms merchants.

Commentary Views Treason Charge Against Nawaz Sharif

BK1906115995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Jun 95

[Commentary by Samual Bates]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Benazir government's charge of treason against former prime minister and opposition leader, Nawaz Sharif, does not surprise the observers of the Pakistani political scene. Here the ruler always brands the opposition leaders as traitors and antistate elements. Mr. Sharif himself described Ms. Bhutto as security threat for the country when he was the prime minister. The fact is that the ruler always tries to have absolute power whether there is democracy or military rule. During democracy, there is effort to have one-party rule by describing the opposition as antistate and traitor. Ms. Bhutto is also doing the same. She is bent upon finishing the two important parties — the Muslim League and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement.

There is no doubt that what Mr. Nawaz Sharif did in Punjab in June 1993 amounted to subversion of the Constitution, but it a was free for all situation in which the president, the prime minister, the opposition leader, and to some extent the army leadership also committed this sin against the Constitution. As a result of the tussle between the president and the prime minister, Punjab was under two administrative structures each owing allegiance to either of them. Now after two years, Ms. Bhutto's government has prodded the Punjab government to file a suit against Mr. Sharif for subverting the Constitution in 1993. According to Article 6 of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan, this sin amounts to high treason and which can be punished with death. But the question is: Who has not committed this sin in Pakistan? From Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah to Ms. Bhutto, all are guilty on this account.

Mr. Jinnah was the first leader, who as the governor general of newly created Pakistan, dismissed the duly elected government of Dr. Khan Saheb in North-West Frontier Province, just because it was not a Muslim government. He then installed his own Muslim League colleagues in power, then although they were a defeated lot. He did not bother about constitutional requirements in this case. Pakistan had its first constitution after nine years of its birth. This constitution had a short life because President Iskander Mirza abrogated it and imposed martial law under Ayub Khan. Next constitution was given in 1962 which was flouted by its own author Ayub Khan. When the post-1971 constituent assembly recommended insertion of an article to prevent future abrogation and subversion of the constitution, parliamentarians had the role of the Army in mind. After the promulgation of the 1973 Constitution, there were demands that its Article 6 be given a retrospective effect to punish General Ayub Khan and General Yahya Khan for abrogating and subverting the Constitution. But the then prime minister, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, did not react. On the contrary, Mr. Bhutto himself began subverting the Constitution. In February 1974, he dismissed the coalition government and governor of Balochistan as also the governor of North-west Frontier Province — NWFP. The NWFP government resigned in protest. The reason for these dismissals was that these two provinces had rejected Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party — PPP — at the 1970 elections. Mr. Bhutto not only dismissed these governments, he put all top leaders of the two provinces in jail on charges of antistate activities. The charges related to Wali Khan Khan family was opposition to the creation of Pakistan before 1947. In addition, he ordered a severe military crack down in Balochistan which continued for about four years. General Ziaul Haq, who toppled Mr. Bhutto's government in July 1977, had [word indistinct] attitude toward democracy, Constitution and politicians. Yet he did not abrogate the Constitution, perhaps, for the fear of Article 6. He only suspended it and revived it after eight years when he had made it out of shape with his own amendments, including the Eighth Amendment under which the president removed elected government at will. Present Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto herself committed subversion of the Constitution by removing the Muslim League-Nawaz government in NWFP with the help of President Farooq Leghari. Thus, these two are also guilty of the subversion of the Constitution.

Ms. Bhutto has very glibly reacted to the Clinton administration's criticism of the treason case against Mr. Sharif by saying we have courts. But everybody knows what are these courts. She waited to sue Mr. Sharif until she was able to fill courts with her own men. And, that is no secret.

Shiv Sena Impact on Maharashtra Analyzed

95AS0398A Varanasi AJ in Hindi 14 May 95 p 1 (Supplement)

[Article by Upendra Vinayak: "Is Today's Bombay Maratha Mumbai?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The Chief Election Commissioner T. N. Seshan might be in the limelight of current Indian political coverage but two other people equipped with distinguished backgrounds are, in fact, talked about more prominently. Not only are they the talk of the day but they have successfully secured a permanent place for themselves in the media. One of these is the Prime Minister of India, Narasimha Rao and the other, the President of the Shiv Sena [SS], Bal Thakrey. While one is the prime minister of a country and the president of the Congress party the other is merely the president of the Shiv Sena and is not even the chairman of a municipality or a town area. One habitually defeats his opponents cautiously with care and diplomacy, whereas the other is aggressive, and quick. Two decades ago both these organizations were united but today they are 180 degrees apart. If these groups have shared any similarity and permanence during these twenty years it is nothing except their desire for one goal - "Mumbai should be Marathi."

The genesis of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra was dependent on Marathi speaking people, and with the passage of time, the sentimental slogan of "Marathi Mumbai" strengthened while it grew and gained organizational stability under the shadow of the Congress. The poor and lower echelon south Indians had to suffer the first adverse result of "Marathi Mumbai". Later, the Shiv Sena aggressively pursued its effort spreading its slogan slowly all over Maharashtra with a goal that said "Maharashtra belongs to Marathas". This caused cracks in the relationship of the Congress and Shiv Sena, and by using the sweet bait of "Maharashtra belongs to Marathas" Shiv Sena allured the backward, neglected and oppressed Maharos and Marathas into its camp. As a result the Shiv Sena brought Bombay under its control. Subsequently, Shiv Sena extended its influence over greater Bombay, Poona, Marathawada, and adjoining areas, and from these centers its goal of "Marathi-Mumbai and Maharashtra for Marathas" started to change into "Hindu Nation." In the industrial city of Bombay the primary achievement of the SS was its emergence and recognition as a "Hindu saviour" in areas such as Bhivindi, Bhindi Bazar, Kalayan, Thane, and in Muslim strongholds. During the riots when the Hindus from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar came to rescue the area's Muslims the entire controversy turned into a Marathas versus Non-Marathas issue. Numerous illicit Bombay undertakings have routinely been shared by Hindus-Muslims, Christians-Parsis, and other religious groups. The SS, using the ideology that everything should be under Hindu control, started to stretch their influence, and in the process it tackled with the south Indian and Muslim mafias. The south Indians embarked on their flight to the south, and slowly the Muslim mafia connection established political links with other Muslim countries, and they started to appear as foreign agents with incidents increasing such as bomb explosions.

Due to the inherent conflict with Muslims, and in the face of issues like the intrusion of Bangladeshi nationals, reconstruction of the Ram Temple and Pakistani interference in Indian affairs the SS point of view tilted. Specifically, in Maharashtra for the so called orthodox Advani group the SS became a favorite. The SS slogan "Hindu Nation" attracted the attention of the Advani confidants and the pioneer of SS-BJP alliance in Maharashtra Pramod Mahajan, and in Maharashtra the BJP-SS alliance was born. It is a different matter that Chagan Bhujbal who at one time in the passion of his loyal dedication was eager to lay down his life for the revered Bal Thakrey, withdrew from the SS and joined the Congress, causing cracks in the foundation of this alliance. But the Manohar Joshi-Pramod Mahajan union, by defeating the Congress in the recent Vidhan Sabha elections established a coalition government in Maharashtra.

Since the inception of the coalition government, the statements of the Chief of the SS Bal Thakrey, because of the political conditions, have gained national prominence. It is difficult to estimate what has been gained, but certainly, Bal Thakrey's aspiration of hoisting a saffron flag on the Red Fort, and the BJP's desire of gaining power at the center have been harmed. In addition, it has given a cause to Manohar Joshi's opponents with which to unite. Nothing can be said, if the SS takes several of Bal Thakrey's statements as decisive because both the SS and the BJP have demonstrated a double faceted policy on delicate issues like Hinduism and a Hindu nation. Although the BJP's attitude on this issue is soft, its allies are capable of exposing its other face because Thakrey's assailing statements are a part of a well thought scheme.

The BJP is engaged with full vigour in its effort to form a government at the center. To meet this goal it is necessary for the BJP to control and win Muslim votes. That is why the BJP is busy in attracting Muslims. The BJP's political philosophy of "integral humanism" which embodies the creation of an equal opportunity version of traditional order has no place for "reservations." Similarly, BJP talks about human rights in place of minority rights. The principal reasons for this is its dream to install its government at the center. [passage omitted]

The SS and Bal Thakrey are aggressive and explicit speakers. That is why their statements on issues like condition of the minorities, permit management, and (on religious places like) Ayodhya, Kashi, and Mathura are controversial. In context of the December 6, 1992 incident, nobody would have had the courage but Thakreyy to have made the statement that "I am proud of what happened." Right from the beginning the SS and Thakrey have been concerned about the unfortunate conditions and lack of opportunities for the Marathas. The SS has always considered Marathas to be supreme in Bombay and, due to its aggressiveness it holds indifferent views towards the non-Marathi speaking population. The Christian and Parsi communities never irked the SS whereas the Muslim community's isolationism and terrorism has caused the SS to oppose them. Shiv Sena's current perspective regarding the south Indians is basically financial. Generally speaking, in Bombay, the south Indians captured all the job opportunities. In addition they had influence in the underworld. Due to open hostility on both fronts the SS attitude appears to be against the south Indians. The fear of the south Indian community of Bombay comes mostly from the present permit management strategy. It is also speculated that the entire reorganization of the permit system is being undertaken to achieve the goals of "Marathi Mumbai". A lot of significance is given to the recent talks between the former chief minister of Maharahtra Sudhakar Nayak and Bal Thakrey. With this, the outlook of the central government is less practical and more political in Shiv Sena's planning of chasing out Pakistani and Bangladeshi intruders out of Bombay. In Maharashtra it is said that the SS's contentiousness for the minorities and the BJP's soft attitude are the results of a political stretegy. At the same time a terrible fear of SS and the BJP feelings for the minorities are being planted in the minority community. The only Muslim minister in the Maharashtra coalition government is one who has been attached with the Shiv Sena since 1966, that is right from its inception. He is a Muslim who performs his prayers five times a day. He considers himself a perfect Maharastrian and recites the slogans of "Jai-Bhavani Jai-Bhavani, Jai Shivaji" with great devotion and honesty.

In his belief and definition of Hinduism he maintains that Hindusim does not pertain to religion but to Hindu culture, and according to Sabir Sekh he himself had extended the Shiv Sena outside of Bombay in Thane by establishing a branch on July 17, 1966. He explicitly believes that the Shiv Sena is not against Muslims but is against all those Muslims who are not loyal to India and are faithful to Pakistan. These Muslims and those foreign citizen intruders who have illegally gained entry into India have no moral right to live here. The Indian Muslims should recognize the demands of the time and should be faithful to their nation (India), if not they should leave this country. In this regard Shiv Sena's doings and sayings are much more explicit and aggressive.

With the commencement of the coalition government in Bombay, accusations were focused on the implementation of the permit system to control the increased population, lack of distribution management for essentials, water pollution, shortage of potable water, and transportation problems. The chief of the SS has in the past totally disassociated himself from any permit implementation. He has clearly said that his intention is to provide free housing to the slum dwellers in accordance with his campaign promise. Thakrey says that if rest of the people from the country will start coming to Bombay under the charm of getting free housing it will not only be impossible for the coalition government to fulfil its promise but also to control the increasing population, intruders, and illegal foreign citizens whose eviction is essential. The SS is also not able to dismiss its 30 year old dream of "Marathi Mumbai", and this alone is sufficient to create suspicion against the coalition. The impact of this suspicion is gradually spreading all over the country and if the coalition makes a mistake in implementing its campaign promises, it will be difficult for it to come out of it.

It is a solid fact that no one else including the BJP or any of its leaders are as clean and honest as Shiv Sena and its leader, Bal Thakrey. To make clear statements like "I am proud of the Ayodhya episode", and to hold aggressive policies on Kashi and Mathura [Hindu temples with Mosques built over them], and to issue outspoken statements on Bangladeshis was not possible for any other leader except Thakrey. In today's politics where cheating, meanness, and black mailing form its basis, it is no wonder that Thakrey's clear and honest statements are considered controversial. Six years ago during a dinner meeting of the officials of the World Marathi Parishad, Thakrey had clearly said that Hindus should have complete control of the entire legal or illegal commerce in India. Can these statements be non-controversial? But is it proper to consider Thakrey's plain Marathi politics in a dirty sense. Under the combined pressure of the Greater Maharashtra Mandal and Shiv Sena the amount of Rs 25 lakhs (2.5 million rupees) duly approved by the Maharashtra government can be seen as absolutely being stolen. The mentality to encourage language based communalism by using politics of the language as the medium started from Nagpur. Under these circumstances even if the Shiv Sena does not endeavour to create a "Marathi Mumbai" on the basis of the language, the national character and significance of the Marathi speaking community will be destroyed. And the language based destruction that started from Tamil Nadu, eventually showed its dirty face in Punjab will quickly penetrate Maharashtra. Marathi speaking people also live outside Maharashtra not only in states like Gujrat, Goa, Madya Pradesh, and Karnataka but also in Bengal, Assam, and Tripura. Those who chant "Jai Bhavani, Jai Shivaji" should consider that one wrong step can blemish Shivaji's national honor and image.

Bal Thakrey

Bal Thakrey is a very clever and quick leader. Whatever he says or whatever controversy he generates always benefits him. But so far he has only collected votes by exerting tension to gain popular sympathy and turn the electorate in his favor. Now the [Shiv Sena-led] government has been formed, and the responsibility has come with it. It would have been different if Thakrey himself had become the chief minister. He is still an outsider. So Manohar Joshi will have to reap the fruits of whatever he says or does, willingly or reluctantly.

This first Brahmin chief minister of Maharashtra will have to face all those substantial issues created by the SS. The new government will have to respond and face all those issues that would emerge as a result of the slogan "Maharashtra is for Maharashtrians". The new government will face questions on how it views the fears of the outsiders terrified by this slogan and on the issue of the minority residents in the state in view of the harsh treatment given to them to date.

Manohar Joshi will find his ride on two horses more difficult. The BJP and the SS have nothing in common except the ideology of Hinduism. Their foundations have different bases. Their character is different. And after coming to power they will individually compete to spread their respective political base. Joshi will have the responsibility to maintain a balance during this critical time. The BJP and SS have conflicting policies on the issue of reservations. We will have to wait and see how the new government handles it. The SS had vigorously protested naming the Marathpada University after Baba Sahib Ambedkar's name whereas the BJP had supported it. The SS is a urban party whereas the BJP has a rural base. Joshi, who manages private tuition, restaurants and construction business, will be responsible to implement those substantial campaign promises made by the SS-BJP coalition before the election in addition to handling the clashing issues. These include providing a low cost dinner for one rupee, giving 3,000 rupees to each poor family, and providing employment. It is obvious that these are not easy propositions. Not only Manohar Joshi but the entire Shiv Sena will have to work very hard.

'Communications Center' of Kashmir Militants Smashed

BK2006070695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have smashed a big communications center of militants and killed two of its guards at a height of 12,000 feet in Dachigam forest area. The security forces also seized two sophisticated diamond antennae, one powerful radio set, one portable generator, and other equipment from the center.

The Janata Dal has demanded a comprehensive economic package and the expansion of autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir. In a resolution on Kashmir at its national executive meet at Attibele near Bangalore, the party said the prevailing situation in the state was a result of the diabolical machinations of Pakistan. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said his party has an open mind on the issue of holding elections in the state.

Iran

U.S. Concerns Over Russian Nuclear Aid Reported

LD2306132495 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, June 23, IRNA — U.S. under secretary of state for arms control and international security affairs, Lynn Davis, has left for Moscow for talks including Iran-Russian nuclear cooperations.

According to the United States Information Service here Friday [23 June], State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns expressed U.S. concerns over the possible sale of Russian nuclear energy technology to Iran and said the United States will take every opportunity to make those concerns known.

Davis, is due to have talks on security issues with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov. Her talks will also serve as preliminary discussions to Vice President Gore's meeting next week with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Burns also noted that the issue of China's relationship with Iran did come up when Secretary of State Christopher last met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in New York on April 17.

"At that time we made very clear, publicly, our concern with any future nuclear energy cooperation and nuclear technology cooperation between China and Iran," the spokesman said.

He said the United States has "a continuing strong interest in diplomatic contacts at a very high level with the Chinese Government and we will work towards that end."

Burns further acknowledged that U.S.-Chinese relations are going through "a rough patch".

There have been reports that China has been reluctant to agree to a visit to Beijing by Peter Tarnoff, under secretary of state for political affairs.

The United States, without any success and by all means, has tried to force Russia and China to cancel nuclear energy cooperation with Iran.

The two countries which have signed nuclear cooperation deals with Iran have rejected U.S. claims over Iran's intentions to build nuclear weapons.

Official Addresses 'Ashura, U.S. in Friday Sermon

LD2306113695 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — Substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati here Friday [23 June] said that presence of the leader of Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in the big 'Ashura maneuver as a powerful army commander on June 16 was a "great honour" for Iranian nation.

Jannati said such a presence increased spirits of basiji (grassroot volunteer forces) and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) forces, showing to Muslims' enemies "how much people were present in the revolutionary scene."

He added that Muslims should always be well-prepared in military, economic and cultural areas so much so that enemy may not have any desire to invade them.

Jannati, also a member of the Guardians Council, said no one would be oppressed and put under tyranny if Iran strengthened its military power. Because, he added, there were checks and balances for power in Islam.

Despite the U.S. overt enmity with Muslims, continued the Ayatollah, Islam was growing today in Britain, the

United States, Turkey, Central Asia and other parts of the world and that people hated enemies of Islam everywhere in the world.

Elsewhere in his second sermon, Jannati touched on U.S. imposition of economic embargo on Iran and said the country would have no economic problem by the next ten years in the light of proper planning, public alertness and removal of unqualified persons.

The Iranian alim consoled Muslim world on martyrdom anniversary of the fourth imam of shiites, Imam Zeynolabedin (A.S.), which this year fell on June 11. [sentence as received]

He recalled the blast at the Islamic republic party headquarters on June 28, 1981, by the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) that martyred 72 top officials including chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti.

He added that such a disaster should be kept alive in history so as not to let crimes, committed by anti-revolutionaries, be forgotten by their supporters.

He concluded that country's economic issues were "more vital" than in the past, because the enemy intended to create economic problems and in this manner deal a vital blow to the country.

Official Promises More Exercises After 'Ashura

*LD2306101495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 23 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], spoke before the Friday [23 June] prayer sermons in Tehran today. Reviewing objectives of the successful 'Ashura maneuver, he said: The main objective of this maneuver was to maintain combat readiness of the IRGC and basij [mobilization] warriors to defend the country's territorial integrity and to safeguard national security.

He added: Four more extensive maneuvers will be organized all over the country in the future. This will be communicated to the basij and IRGC units soon.

Editorial Views Significance of 'Ashura Exercises

*NC2206160195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
17 Jun 95 p 2*

[Editorial: "Iran, A Strong Ally for Neighbors and Friends"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the course of 'Ashura maneuvers this week, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) displayed the equipment manufactured, reconstructed, or purchased by the IRGC since the end of the Iraqi-imposed war in 1988.

Besides being a regular maneuver to test the combat readiness and power of the armored units of the IRGC, the maneuvers gave a warning to the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and imparted a message to its friends.

The message to the enemies is that Islamic Iran can defend its sovereignty and protect every speck of its territory without relying on foreign powers. The Iranian nation has proved that it will not compromise with enemies on its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The enemies must bear in mind that they should not be entrapped by mischievous plots of global arrogance which tries to resort to the notorious policy of "divide and rule." It is not in the interest of the enemies of Iran to undermine Iran's territorial integrity. It is also not in their interest to instigate their proxies to embark on policies which question Iran's territorial integrity. The proxies of Iran's archenemy, the U.S., should give a second thought to what the U.S. dictates to them before blindly following it.

The maneuvers impart a message to friends, especially those in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf, that they can count on Iran as a strong ally capable of defending the interests of the region with their cooperation. The regional countries, therefore, should shake Iran's friendly hand for protecting our common interests. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed regional cooperation and mutual understanding rather than reliance on foreign powers who come to the region on any pretext to ensure access to our resources.

Although the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who, in the final analysis, are enemies of its neighbors and friends, are not happy with such maneuvers, the friends of the Islamic Republic of Iran are happy to see a strong Iran.

Officials Comment on Salman Rushdie Issue

Spokesman Views EU Demand

*LD2206130795 Tehran IRNA in English
1254 GMT 22 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi, said here Thursday [22 June] that the presence of an Iranian delegation in Paris for talks with European Union (EU) officials was not aimed at giving a reply to EU's demand from Iran concerning Salman Rushdie as claimed by Western mass media.

Sarmadi noted that the negotiations, which began in Paris today, are being held within the framework of regular talks between the two sides and as it has happened before, it is likely that the issue of Rushdie would be brought up and discussed in this round of talks.

The official stressed that in the case the Rushdie issue was brought up in the negotiations, Iran would insist on its previous stand that the late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa (religious edict) cannot be rescinded and on its commitment to respect international regulations. [sentence as received]

Asked on the topics to be discussed in the negotiations, Sarmadi said that the two sides would discuss matters of mutual interests at both regional and international levels as well as bilateral issues.

Referring to the final statement of G-7 summit in Halifax, Canada, which called on the Islamic Republic to abandon its stand towards the apostate author of the 'Satanic Verses,' the spokesman said that four EU members which were present in the G-7 summit had been well aware of Iran's stance towards the fatwa on Rushdie.

The Iranian delegation which in now in Paris is headed by deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affair Mahmud Va'ezi.

Majles Official: West is 'Mistaken'

LD2206223895 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1842 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Studio interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majles deputy and member of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Political Roundtable" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] The Salman Rushdie issue as well as the Middle East peace process were raised in the G-7 summit communique. What do you think about those issues?

[Larijani] The Western governments are mistaken about Salman Rushdie. Of course that shows that the dimensions of the Salman Rushdie issue go beyond Iran and in reality it is an issue which concerns the world of Islam.

Essentially the Salman Rushdie issue stems from an improper move by Western statesmen. An idiot writes a book insulting the sanctities of hundreds of millions of Muslims, hurts their sensibilities. Instead of apologizing, all the world statesmen stand behind such a person, support him. Some of the European leaders welcome him in their palaces as if he were a head of state. What does all that mean? It means an animosity which they express against the world of Islam.

Of course they embarked on wide-scale propaganda against Iran in the world. They put it about that a writer has written a book; the head of a country disliked the book and ordered that person to be killed. Naturally such a depiction is against international law, international regulations; you cannot kill a citizen of another country, particularly in violation of human rights. On the other hand they have never looked at the main meat of the issue. They call on Iran, for instance, to cancel the fatwa; do not let it be enforced. What does that mean? That means that the Iranian Government must tell its great religious scholars to shut their mouths and say nothing so that an idiot like Salman Rushdie can talk. Where in the world can you sell that idea?

As for our government killing a citizen of another country, our country has announced time and again that it will not embark on an act which is against international regulations. Bearing in mind the stances that His Excellency Dr. Velayati has declared, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani has declared, and Mr. Nateq-Nuri has declared, I believe that there was no room for doubt in the minds of the Western statesmen. To include that clause, saying, for instance, that the Islamic Republic of Iran's government must not threaten Salman Rushdie's life, further emphasizes the mistaken line that the Western statesmen have adopted without paying any respect to religions. The least that was expected was that they would pay as much respect to the sanctities and sentiments of the people of the world as they give importance to Salman Rushdie's life. We do realize that human life has no importance for them at all. In the Western logic, if hundreds of thousands are sacrificed and it does not detract from their interests they will have no difficulty there. The West's record shows that they do not value human life at all.

At the same time the section which they have, so to speak, included in the communique — what has been presented there — first of all demonstrates that the Westerners are pursuing the same wrong policy. It is not that they have not understood that rationale. The scope of their animosity is not confined to Iran, it goes beyond that. It must be said that one should be extremely sorry for Western statesmen because for them the penny drops too late. They should be sure that the world of Islam will not forget such a stance and will keep it in mind. [passage omitted]

Daily Calls For Afghan Refugees To Return Home

LD2206083895 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA — While situation is moving towards normalization in Afghanistan, those Afghan refugees who have remained outside their country should recognize that they are indebted to their country and to those who laid down their lives to expel the invading enemy, wrote the daily TEHRAN TIMES here Thursday [22 June].

Commenting on the return to their country of Afghan refugees in Iran, the English-language daily said, "we expect our Afghan brothers to realize that there is no place like home. At this stage a congenial ground has been prepared for Afghans to return home. they should not miss this opportunity to play their part in the construction of their war-ravaged motherland."

Saying that Afghan refugees constitute the largest number of foreign expatriates to take asylum in Iran, the paper added that the Islamic Iran embraced the Afghan refugees at a time when they were threatened by the atrocities of the Red Army. All this happened while Iran was gripped in the clutches of a devastating war and suffering shortages and embargoes, it noted.

Although having great difficulties attending the needs of Iran, the Iranian authorities considered a neighbor's plight to be that of Iran's and opened the gates of the country to Afghan refugees.

When the Afghan mojahedin were fighting the enemy in the battlefields, some of the Afghan refugees had a relatively peaceful life outside their country, noted the paper.

It said in conclusion that it is time for those who did not participate in the jihad to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, giving a helping hand to their brothers.

Radio Addresses Repatriation of Afghan Refugees

LD2206123395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0958 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The director general of foreign nationals and emigrants affairs of the Ministry of Interior announced that the repatriation of 400,000 Afghan refugees to their country will begin today.

The repatriation of those refugees, who hold temporary residence cards, takes place in accordance with the resolutions passed by the trilateral commission comprised of representatives of Iran, Afghanistan, and the UNHCR.

In addition to this number of refugees, a plan for the repatriation of 500,000 Afghans who hold permanent residence cards has also been prepared.

After the repatriation of those refugees to their country, Iran will still be hosting 1,600,000 Afghan refugees, and necessary measures will be taken concerning their repatriation in the future.

Afghan refugees are being returned to their country on the principle that they can contribute to the reconstruction of their country. Each one of the refugees has acquired special skills during their stay in the host country that can be used in the reconstruction of their country.

Furthermore, political experts believe that the phenomenon of asylum-seeking was temporary. Once the conditions are favorable it should be ended. Naturally, each refugee is facing problems in the host country. Their problems will be alleviated to a certain extent when they return to their country.

Therefore, Afghan refugees, who enjoyed all of the welfare services during their stay in Iran, now prefer to return to their country due to the establishment of relative calm in Afghanistan, except in the northern regions of that country.

Iran has prepared the necessary facilities for the repatriation of these refugees, among which we mention the allocation of several million dollars in credit that will be distributed among them in form of cash and kind at the border crossing points.

In returning to their country, it is hoped that Afghan refugees will play an effective and constructive role in the political and economic transformations of Afghanistan.

Iraq's Head of Red Crescent Society Ends Visit

LD2306140895 Tehran IRNA in English 1236 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kermanshah, June 23, IRNA — Head of Iraq's Red Crescent Society [RCS] Sa'doon Khalifa al-Takriti and the accompanying delegation wound up their six-day official visit to Iran on Friday [23 June] and left here for Khanaqin via Khosravi border, west of Iran.

Talking to IRNA before his departure, al-Takriti told IRNA that he and his Iranian counterpart Vahid Dastjerdi had in their meeting talked on issues relevant to the Iranian and Iraqi Red Crescent Societies.

He added that he and Dastjerdi had reached agreement on having bilateral and international cooperation.

The Iraqi official said the Iranian side agreed on Iraqi RCS' benefiting from Iran's assistance in view of the achievements attained by the Iranian RCS.

Moreover, he added that Iran's RCS had promised to forward pharmaceutical assistance to the Iraqi one.

The Iraqi delegation, also composed of Dr. Osameh al-Abed as the head of the administration board and Jamal Naser as head of youth section at the Iraqi RCS, had within the period of their stay in Iran visited holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) and the RCS branches in provinces of Khorasan and Isfahan.

Editorial Sees Need To Redefine OPEC Role

NC2306092195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jun 95 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC Can Be A Model for Cartels"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oil used to be a strategic commodity in 1920s through '30s. Since it fueled the war machines during the two world wars, it played a strategic role in the balance of power in international relations. Hence the colonial powers spared no effort in taking control of the oil pools in their hands.

Until '70s the exploration, management, and marketing of oil industries of the developing countries remained in the hands of colonial powers. Although the host countries, in their partnership with the Western oil companies, succeeded in abrogating long-term concessions and controlling their oil industries, they were incapable of exercising a real control over their oil industries due to a variety of reasons. Most of the oil-rich developing countries, which were British protectorates or proxies, remained subservient to Washington after the withdrawal of British forces from the east of Suez in 1971. The subservient status of these countries has been one of the major hurdles in realization of OPEC's objectives.

Ironically OPEC has been the only Third World cartel in the crosscurrent of cut-throat competition among economic rivals. It is a pity that the organization has not been able to fulfill its mission in protecting the interests of its members.

It is high time that the OPEC members give a second thought to their attitudes towards the organization. Besides giving priority to their national interests, and instead of following lines dictated to them, certain OPEC members should spare no effort in settling differences with other members who advocate an independent line of action — free from the influence of Western powers.

If OPEC successfully emerges in protecting the interests of its members, it will set a model for other Third World countries to follow suit and set new Third World cartels to take care of their interests in the unequal competition between the advanced countries and the developing states.

Idea for New OPEC Currency Reported

LD2206214095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following severe fluctuations in the value of the dollar and its continuing fall, the Islamic Republic of Iran is remove [as heard] the dollar from the monetary basket of the OPEC.

According to our correspondent, an informed source said in this regard that the recent unsteady situation of the dollar has caused the fall of oil income for oil-exporting countries. He further emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran brought up its proposal in OPEC's recent session.

The informed source also asserted that long-term plans and programs are needed to finalize the proposal since the dollar possesses the mechanism of the oil market.

The same source disclosed that many OPEC members agree with Iran's idea to find a new currency for oil transactions.

Daily Interviews Official on Economic Issues

NC2006102695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Jun 95 p 11

[Interview with Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and director of the Plan and Budget Organization, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] In your remarks at a recent seminar you stated that because of the scarcity of our resources for projects, we have assigned some projects to the people. I deduce from these remarks that you do not sincerely believe in the people's participation but you see that there is no alternative but to turn to the people.

[Rowghani-Zanjani] I do believe in the people's participation. My comments were intended to answer the ideologues who are trying to increase the burden on the government's shoulders and to tell them that if the government had the money, it would implement projects by itself. But since it does not have the money, what should be done? And it is in answer to these ideologues who are trying to increase the government's burden that we say that the government does not have all the resources needed to carry out its duties on its own. Therefore, the people have to contribute.

[Correspondent] What is your view on the stabilization of foreign exchange rates? Do you think that this will continue until the end of the current [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1996]?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] The government feels that this is a favorable policy and has decided that the stabilization of foreign exchange rates will continue until the end of this year.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that foreign exchange rates will change after that?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] As far as government decisions are concerned, this is not a good time to express any views on what will happen in one year.

[Correspondent] What led to this decision?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] The increase in foreign exchange rates on the market created an atmosphere of instability for the economic officials of the country. Therefore, this decision was necessary in order to stabilize the country's economy.

Price rises had led to some speculation, and this had increased the demand in the foreign exchange and gold markets.

In general, it was in order to prevent price rises and to stabilize the foreign exchange and gold markets that this decision was made.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion of the foreign exchange allocation process and the issuing of letters of credit? Will the Central Bank be able to meet our needs and put import matters into order?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] I hope so.

[Correspondent] It is said that the Central Bank has not yet issued letters of credit for imports and that the requests that have been sent to the Central Bank are being delayed.

[Rowghani-Zanjani] The Central Bank opens credit lines on the basis of priorities. Naturally, in view of its potentials and resources, it grants priority to basic goods, followed by the needs of the industries. Possibly some people may not have been able to open letters of credit yet for this reason. At any rate, I hope that it will be able to meet demands.

[Correspondent] You place a great emphasis on the implementation of the economic adjustment policy. Do you think that the recent decisions are in line with this policy?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] Scientifically speaking, the objectives of the adjustment policy are in line with the current policies. There may be differences in the methods and means that have been used. Contrary to what some people think, this policy does not mean unrestrained prices.

Adjustment policies cannot be implemented without policies for economic stability. These policies were emphasized in the First Plan and especially in the Second Plan.

In general, the objectives of the adjustment policy and the government's current drive to stabilize foreign exchange rates are compatible. There may be differences in the means and methods that are used to achieve these goals.

[Correspondent] Do you think that this difference exists at this point?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] Possibly. But the way the government is trying to implement the adjustment policy by adopting a favorable monetary policy.

In other words, it is not as though in trying to stabilize foreign exchange rates the government has ignored financial and monetary policies. Next the government will use such policies and try to stabilize foreign exchange rates, because if it does not do so, I can clearly state that its current policies will not last. The recent economic decisions complement a policy of contracting monetary and financial resources through financial and economic discipline.

[Correspondent] Could you please comment on the special characteristics of the financial and monetary policies that are being adopted?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] These policies will be included in the cabinet's agenda soon, so we can comment on them after they are discussed by the cabinet.

[Correspondent] Do these policies envisage an increase in the legal deposits?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] They include provisions on legal deposits and controlling the growth in bank loans.

[Correspondent] What guarantee is there that these control methods will be observed, in view of the fact that similar regulations were approved in the past too? For example, last year the growth in outstanding bank loans was 7.5 trillion rials, increasing this figure to 111 trillion rials.

[Rowghani-Zanjani] Generally speaking, your answer might apply to instances where there is a lack of serious national determination to implement a logical and acceptable decision or policy! But we should differentiate between a correct policy and correct decision. In other words, a policy may be correct, but there may not be serious determination to implement it. This also depends on what policies are discerned as correct by the decision-making centers at each juncture.

[Correspondent] How can we encourage a serious national determination? How has it come to be absent all these years?

[Rowghani-Zanjani] I do not want to say that it has not existed. Had there been no serious determination, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani's cabinet would not have implemented the economic adjustment policy.

[Correspondent] This serious determination and adherence to policies and decisions is mostly dependent on the executive and state organs. For example, when a decision concerning growth in bank loans is adopted, this decision should be observed. Therefore, this is more their own determination rather than a "national determination".

[Rowghani-Zanjani] I don't want to accuse the banks. I say that correct policies have been and should be drawn up and that they should also be correctly implemented.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Daily Views Increase of 'Goodwill Money'

95LA0214A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—In recent years some government organizations, especially the municipality of Tehran, have imposed heavy costs and high rate of goodwill money on commercial sites. This has caused very great increases in the goodwill money for these sites in the city, and for this reason the need to stop these kinds of profiteering measures has been made clearer than ever.

A residential property official in the Jennat Abad district said in this regard: Even now goodwill money is going up every day and cannot be controlled because government organizations, such as the municipality, the treasury offices, the water and electricity companies, and other organizations have increased their prices in every way possible.

When the municipality changes its square-meter rate every day, when the treasury office imposes heavy taxes, and when other such things occur, the owners of these kinds of sites will increase their goodwill money by the same amount.

He also said that the increase in goodwill money also influences price increases for other goods. He said: When the goodwill money of a shop on Mirdamad Street (Mohseni) is 60 million tumans, the goods sold to the public in such shops will be priced on this very basis because the proprietor must make up those costs any way possible.

Another official at the Center for Property Information who is extensively involved in the sale of property, real estate, and commercial sites said: The market for property and commercial rentals has been hot for a long time, and the main reason for that is that the public has turned to self-employment. When the people see that the best way to get an income is to have a shop, they will definitely turn to that; this has already happened.

Hoseyn Asghari, a shop owner in the railroad district, discussed the increases in goodwill money. He said: I have my shop for sale right now. It is 13 square meters, and I set its price at 11.7 million tumans.

Our correspondent asked him: Why did you propose this high price? He answered: The owner of the property wants 1 million tumans. The municipality also demands 1.5 million tumans. I must therefore make up for these costs somehow. Of course, if someone wants me to sell the key, I will do so immediately.

A Ministry of Justice expert in legal affairs who has long experience in these kinds of transactions believes that the people should strictly avoid key transfers, because ultimately they will face extremely damaging problems. Therefore everything must be done based on legal criteria and registered so that no one will have problems.

He also added: A large number of cases are already being heard in this area. The principals in these cases believe that if transfers were done legally at the documents office on the very first day during the transaction and if they had paid even more, they would not be having these problems since the property is subject to the verdict of the court.

An expert on goodwill money at commercial sites, who is in charge of the official documents office, discussed goodwill money increases with our correspondent. He said: With the increases in inflation and the increased cost of living, it is natural for the public to turn to self-employment. When the demand for self-employment increases, then goodwill money rates will certainly rise; this is already happening.

He discussed the transfer of these kinds of sites and said: The transfer of goodwill money is rarely done at this office, possibly once or twice a week, because most of these transactions are "key" transactions.

The owner of an arcade in the southern part of Tehran discussed the municipality's role in building this arcade. He said: The municipality has the right to demand a concession fee from the owner of a commercial building or arcade and to spend the money on urban development, but this must be announced publicly on the basis of the law so the people will know the details.

He then said: When the municipality becomes our partner, instead of collecting the amount required for a building permit, we have no choice but to raise the pre-sale price on these shops because we must collect whatever the expenses are.

Our economic affairs correspondent reports that many contacts were made over the course of a week with central municipal public relations officials with regard to this report, but unfortunately our questions were not answered before press time. It is hoped that the officials will give the answers required to remove doubts and respond to allegations.

Goodwill Money per Commercial Square Meter in Some Parts of Tehran

Tehran Pars region (Asli Street), 350,000-400,000 tumans;
Vanak, 1 million to 1.2 million tumans;
Mirdamay, 900,000 to 1 million tumans;
Madar Square (Mohseni), 1.7 to 2.2 million tumans;
Mulla Sadra, 750,000 to 1 million tumans;
Vali 'Asr Square (left side of the street to Zartosht), 1 to 1.2 million tumans;
Vali 'Asr Square (right side to the gas pump), 750,000 to 900,000 tumans;
Jennat Abad, 200,000 to 300,000 tumans;
Hashemi and Azadi, 200,000 to 300,000 tumans;
Imam Hoseyn-Enqelab square, 900,000 to 1.1 million tumans;
Narmak, 1 to 1.2 million tumans;
Mowlavi, 500,000 to 750,000 tumans;
Sar Cheshmeh-Baharestan, 700,000 to 1 million tumans;
Sa'di-Esteqlal, 450,000 to 600,000 tumans;
Afsariyeh Three-Way Intersection, 750,000 to 1 million tumans;
Khorasan square, 1.5 to 2 million tumans;
Glubandak-Khayyam, 1 to 1.2 million tumans;
Railroad Square, 800,000 to 1 million tumans;
Gomrok-Mowlavi Square, 700,000 to 900,000 tumans.

It is worth mentioning that the approximate rates for the regions around the major streets have been set by property consultants. Sometimes in these same regions it is possible to get rates lower than those already mentioned. Therefore this report should not become a pretext for this group of people to raise the rates on the goodwill money for their shops.

Article: Press Law for Guidance, Not Restriction

95LA0258C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 10 May 95 p 8

[Article by news service correspondent Faramarz Qarabaghi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The press is one of the most important tools in raising the cultural level and public perception, as well as one of the most important pillars for the preservation and promotion of human values and rights. Hence, providing as much of the necessary resources as possible for the growth of the press is considered to be one of the most vital duties of the organizations and institutions that are directly or indirectly related to or that interact with the press.

Recently, a discussion has begun in the press circles concerning the change in some of the parts of the press law. It is said that the proposal offered anticipates an increase in the authority of the Press Supervisory Committee, and thus this committee will assume a more powerful position.

Even though the officials of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, including the press and political deputy minister of this Ministry, have invited the managers and officials of the press to offer their opinions for or against the proposal before it is presented, we must emphasize that polling the managers and journalists in writing the legislative bills and proposals concerning the press and getting their consultative opinion in the meetings and gatherings directly and in detail, as well as providing the grounds for discussions and exchange of opinion between the experts and the public, can provide solutions for the press in the country. [sentence as published]

Collecting and listening to the opinions of the concerned and committed experts in the press will provide the grounds for safeguarding the offered proposals and bills about the press law against probable legal transgressions and errors.

What can be said with regard to criticizing and evaluating the suggested proposal of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is that, on the whole, the Press Supervisory Committee, as its name implies, has a position of supervision and correction, not a penal and judicial one. Naturally, the decision to temporarily or permanently close a publication is a judicial issue, and the authority of judgment according to Islamic jurisprudence, the Constitution of the country, and the principles of law belongs to the judicial organization and judges. Hence, conferring the right of judgment to substitute organizations and institutions, except in emergency situations, makes no rational or legal sense. The more the responsibility of the judicial organizations, including the press courts, is reduced and the responsibility and obligations of the substitute institutions is increased, the more likely the result will be chaos and disorder in adjudication, and this is contrary to the purpose and intent of the legislative organization.

This writer does not believe that the supervisory and guiding responsibility of the Press Supervisory Committee should not be increased. Rather, he considers a corrective approach among the most important duties of this committee. Of course, there is no doubt that the corrective methods of the Press Supervisory Committee must also have legal backing so that it will be considered obligatory by the other side, but merely changing the direction of the method from a corrective approach to a strict legal one will result in the Press Supervisory Committee becoming converted to merely a prohibitive institution.

An examination of the recent actions of the Press Supervisory Committee also shows the dominant tendency in this committee to move mostly toward punitive and prohibitive approaches. If this tendency gains more legal status, it cannot be asserted that the committee will be any less likely to make decisions that are in the final stages of dealing with a deviant publication.

It seems that as many of the committed and concerned officials of the press believe, strengthening the position of the Arbitration Committee in the press law is a more appropriate and desirable solution than increasing the power of the Press Supervisory Committee.

Strengthening the press courts and the Arbitration Committee would play a significant role in correcting the attitudes, preventing errors and transgressions, and correcting and improving the methods in the press. Undoubtedly, those who are involved with the cultural establishments and institutions are aware of this important issue that because of the complexity of the cultural affairs and the high sensitivity of the press and the press community, a high position must be given to corrective approaches and methods.

Most experts on cultural issues believe that corrective approaches will reduce the possibility of the repetition of errors and transgressions, and that if punitive judicial methods are not used properly, this will escalate tensions, pretensions of being the victim of injustice, ambiguity in actions and reactions, and finally it will encourage individuals to lean toward unpleasant ideological movements.

The guidance position of the Press Supervisory Committee is too important to abandon or be demoted.

The final point is that it seems reforming the press law is inevitable. This amendment must take place in that part of the law in which the procedures for examining the offenses of the press and complaints were intended by the legislature.

At the present, complaints against a publication and its manager are not subject to any restriction or condition. The complainer can engage in a legal suit against the manager of a publication in court at any time, even though the manager of that publication may have left his position a long time prior to the complaint.

Lack of clarity in the law and its silence with regard to restrictions and time conditions may even give rise to the appearance of personal grudges by other individuals after the manager has changed jobs.

At the present, the manager of a publication is accountable for the rest of his life for what is published in the publication which he at one time managed. Now that there is a discussion about changing and reforming the press law, the issue of time restriction for presenting complaints against the press and their managers also seems necessary, so that if this part of the press law is amended, the psychological pressure now imposed on many press managers will be lifted.

*Article Analyzes Goals of Tax System

95LA0252A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 May 95 p 6

[Article by 'Alireza Matin, member of Supreme Tax Council]

[FBIS Translated Text] With my 25 years of experience in various tax units, especially in recent years as a member of the Supreme Tax Council, I have come to believe more than ever that if tax agents would spend most of their time dealing with overdue files to determine what to do about them, it would be more economical and better in every way.

A. It is true that the law is the same for everyone. For example, it says that a rented house is subject to taxation, whether the rent is 10, 100, 1,000 or 100,000 tumans. In terms of doing the research, creating a file, doing the accounting, the consumption of paper, pens, and folders, spending time to do accounting and make claims, sending the company an invitation to attend council meetings, and other things, it costs almost as much as for a debt of 10, 100, or 1,000 times that same amount. Yet in many cases the cost of collecting 100 tumans in taxes is more than 100 tumans, and in reality one of the clearest classical tax principles, that of economy in the collection of taxes, is completely ignored.

Of course in the last 10 years I have personally seen, observed, and been involved in situations where numerous and emphatic guidelines and instructions have been issued about this, especially by the Office of the Deputy of the Deputy Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs, and the need to deal with overdue files has been emphasized repeatedly.

However, in carrying out missions in recent years to inspect and review the nation's various provinces and to do first-hand studies of hundreds and thousands of tax files, it has been seen that all the tax rials on some 1,000 tax files on rental property are perhaps less than one tax file on an employee or a legal entity. In other words, if some 1,000 tax files with figures totaling less than 5,000 tumans in taxes were set aside and more time were spent to investigate and collect the necessary documents to determine the taxes on overdue files, the overall amount of taxes collected would not decrease. Most of the time, expensive manpower should be spent economically to collect taxes and aimed at deciding what to do about overdue files.

Perhaps it is necessary in future reforms to set revenue quotas and minimums to establish tax eligibility so that, for example, those who are subject to rental taxes have monthly incomes of more than 50,000 rials [R]. In the occupational sector, for example, an income in excess of R200,000 monthly could be made taxable, and other provisions such as this could also be made.

The result would be that the time, expense, and tax manpower expended to do investigations, collect documents, and seek to determine the real incomes earned would be used to work on large figures, and this will be for the better.

First of all, this way society's small and vulnerable taxpayers will not be investigated and questioned by agents and most of the people, who are not even really taxpayers, will be taken off the tax rolls. In this way the effects and the consequences of the dissatisfaction, anger, and the rumors spread by most of the small tradesmen and the people in every corner and alley will be eliminated.

Second, when these same people realize and believe that tax agents are going after the big fish and are concentrating on their files, they will definitely cooperate to the extent of their ability with agents in obtaining relevant documents and providing the necessary information on the type of place of business and the various revenue sources for those people.

Third, all of society, even the individuals on the third, fourth and fifth floors, will themselves become promoters of the system in public life. This will not be achieved unless it is emphasized in practice. The people must see and observe that the big fish are the target. Statements about this and that from officials are not that effective. Advice, orders, messages, and trying to get things done through connections have no effect.

We must ask ourselves, in fairness, what are the problems the people have with paying their tax debts, when the necessary conditions have not been established and beliefs are not established?

It is thus necessary to some extent to recognize and reorder the morale of the people, most of whom are taxpayers. The bad approaches taken have accomplished nothing other than to hurt their feelings and exacerbate the pain of their struggles. We must do something to calm them. We must speak kindly, with respect, and softly in order to create conditions where the one who is prepared to become angry will calm down and listen to what we have to say with patience and forbearance. We must even politely offer him a cup of tea to make him understand that we want to keep his respect, that we understand his position.

We must even enumerate points about his circumstances, moral disposition, and social values to make him feel he has come into a place where he is understood. Then he will be convinced that as tax agents, not only do we not want to annoy him, but within the limits of regulations we are prepared to help, guide, assist, and teach him in any way possible. When we have created such feelings in him we may be assured that he will also be willing to cooperate with us.

When we have done these things we will have accomplished part of our mission (to spread the tax culture), especially if we have been able to make him believe that in setting his taxes, justice has been observed based on the law, fairness, and the circumstances that prevail in the activity and in the earning of his income, that the way is open for further consideration and listening to what he has to say, and that the legal authorities are neutral, impartial, and willing to investigate his demands for justice.

If this happens, he will assuredly be willing to cooperate with us. If his taxes are 20,000 tumans, for example, there is no harm in offering him a 20,000-tuman cup of tea. The important thing is that after leaving the room he will think: this person has good will, and since he has good will, he does not want to annoy me. Since he means no harm, it is necessarily to be expected that he will also help, and since he intends to help, I in turn must also show my good will and...[end of sentence as published]

Pakistan

U.S. Said Not Able To Back Missile Allegations

BK2206160695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh is to leave for Tehran tomorrow to hold the first round of bilateral talks with Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi [name and title as heard]. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the foreign secretary-level talks will provide an additional forum [as heard] for a comprehensive review of their bilateral relations and to ensure better coordination between them on regional and global issues at multilateral meetings and organizations. The spokesman said that Pakistan awaits the Iranian interior minister's visit to Pakistan next month.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that so far, the United States could not provide proof which can substantiate the allegations that Pakistan has acquired missiles in the form of spares and parts, violating the Missile Technology Control Regime.

'Sources' Say U.S. Urges Government-MQM Talks

BK2006125395 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jun 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Aroosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 17 — For the first time government sources admitted that the US was of late pressing government to initiate a dialogue with the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). A senior government source on condition of anonymity said of it is unfortunate that a country like the United States which is strongly wedded to democratic norms and ideas, should be pressing Pakistan to open dialogue with a terrorist outfit which is killing people in cold blood".

As the terrorist organisation is not stopping its daily round of mayhem, what to talk of surrendering lethal weapons as a prerequisite for a dialogue. [sentence as published] The government is actually being compelled to enter into dialogue with murderers at gun-point. Either the Americans are looking into the issues in a superficial perspective or they are adopting double-standards on the issue of terrorism, the sources added.

The United States reaction over registration of treason case against leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif stems more from the Americans internal compulsions to appease human rights lobbies and give protection to their massive investments in Pakistan than from major policy shift towards the Benazir government. This was gathered by the MUSLIM during off-the-record interviews with senior diplomats and top government sources privy to decision-makers here.

It seems that the US State Department's reaction has come as a bolt from the blue for Pakistan's political hierarchy and jolted its smug attitude towards harsh realities on the diplomatic front. Suddenly Islamabad feels betrayed as the power- wielders were confident that the Pak-US relations were going by the book since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited Washington early this year. In compliance with the broad understanding reached between the two governments, Pakistan has lived up to its commitment by agreeing to hand over Yusuf Ramzi to the US curbing fundamentalism, distancing itself from rogue states and reported move to amend the Blasphemy Law. In Washington too things are apparently moving smoothly. The process of amendment in the Pressler Law has started taking a concrete shape paving way for massive US investments in Pakistan. Washington has also released Pakistan's unrepaired military equipment and resumed military trainings.

Regarding the treason case the sources alleged that Nawaz Sharif had apparently done something unconstitutional. For Americans Pakistan could not change its laws, they added.

The sources said the treason case against Nawaz Sharif has not been tailored as the events that occurred in Punjab early 1993 were not masterminded by the present government. They said the Americans have reacted hastily and abruptly to the treason case without waiting for its outcome in the superior courts. The sources said "Mian Nawaz Sharif is freely functioning as the Leader of the Opposition and is free to travel abroad."

The diplomatic sources however, justified the US reaction from an entirely different perspective. They maintained that the statement of the State Department was a direct result of behind the scene pressures being exerted by the anti-Pakistan elements in the US administration and the Congress. "The plank of these lobbies is that the Pakistan Government is engaged in suppressing the Opposition and pushing it to the wall. They argue that instead of entering into dialogue with the MQM, the government is instrumental in massive killing of Mohajirs. They say that unless there is a political stability in the country there cannot be economic growth. They contend that if the US administration is backing massive investments in Pakistan by working hard to repeal the Pressler Amendment then it has right to press Pakistan to enter into dialogue with the opposition to achieve political stability."

Both however, the government and diplomatic sources, were of the view that the US reaction would not affect the process of warming up relations with Pakistan. They hoped that both the sides would continue to work within the agreed framework of the understanding.

Court Reviews MQM Constitutional Petition

BK2206082995 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 22 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Altaf Hussain demand for "Mohajir Suba." (Refugee Province) is a smoke screen for his ultimate designs to form coastal state of "Jinnahpur" by disintegrating Pakistan. [sentence as published]

This was stated in the Supreme Court, in a reply statement to the MQM [Mohajir Qaumi Movement] constitutional petition, on behalf of the Federation of Pakistan and the Province of Sindh.

"The demand for Muhajir Suba is only a smoke screen and the first step in political credo and ultimate covert and seditious design of Altaf Hussain to form an independent coastal state of "Jinnahpur" by disintegrating Pakistan and by gorging out vast areas from the land of Sindh from Karachi Division and District Thatta coasts right upto the Indian border of Rajisthan, including Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Tharparker Area and thus effectuate yet another exodus and exchange of populations this time within Pakistan. It says, the Petition is not maintainable under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, 1973 on the grounds that the petitioner has not come to the court with clean hands.

The reply submitted that it is also a condition precedent for involving the jurisdiction of the Hon'ble [Honorable] Court under Article 184(3) of the constitution that there should be a "determinate" class or a group of persons, whose justiciable interests and justified rights require safeguarding.

For its various untenable and illusory grievances, the Petitioner claims to be the sole representative of "Mohajirs" which claim is factually untrue. First, there are other political parties representing Mohajirs independently of the Petitioner. Secondly, all Mohajirs are not supporters of the Petitioner and but for the milieu of terror and repression created by the Petitioner, a great number of Mohajirs would openly support and vote for other political parties.

Thirdly, in a democracy no political party or group can claim primodial [as published] and perpetual vested right to represent any specified voters as a class and fourthly, there are many constituencies in Karachi where voters either belong to mixed population or belong predominately to non-Mohajir class or groups and where the Petitioner has not representation according to its own admission; and finally all Mohajirs are not Urdu speaking.

Consequently, this Petition can not be treated as having been filed on behalf of a "determinate" class or a group, nor can the Petitioner claim representation of an inchoate class or group of voters and supporters.

The reply submitted that the Petition is bereft of documentary evidence for the allegation that the Respondents have issued any directions or instructions which may prevent the Petitioner from functioning or operating as a political party so as to give it a cause of action for any infringement of Article 17.

Mere political rhetoric, without any substance and evidence cannot, in law, create a cause of action under Article 17 or under any other article of the constitution, justifying the filing of a petition under Article 184(3) before this Hon'ble court.

One sided and false statements released to the press cannot be accepted as proof of the allegations and cannot provide grounds for reliefs under Article 184(3) of the constitution (PLD 1993 S C 478 and 865).

Radio Addresses Complaints Against Indian Acts

BK2206145595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Four innocent women were killed and 13 civilians injured seriously due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian troops from across the Line of Control [LOC] into Azad Kashmir during the last 10 days. These women were killed as a result of unprovoked firing by the Indian troops in Dudnyal and Dura villages of Muzaffarabad District, Satwal village of Rawala Kot District, and Kot Katera village of Kotli District.

There has been a sharp increase in the cease-fire violations by the Indian troops in recent weeks causing widespread damage to property and livestock in the villages close to the LOC. A number of Indian fighter aircraft have also been seen to be flying in close proximity of Azad Kashmir along the LOC in total contravention of Article 2-A of the agreement between Pakistan and India on the prevention of air space violations. Formal complaints against these violations have been lodged with the UN observer group in India and Pakistan.

Pakistan has taken positive note of the reference to Kashmir by leaders of G-7 nations at their recent meeting in Canada. Referring to the mention of the Kashmir problem in the chairman's statement, a Foreign Office spokesman said this is for the first time that the G-7 has made such a reference. He said we see it as an indicator of heightened awareness of the international community about the Kashmir dispute. This is the result of the heroic struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination as well as advocacy of their cause by the present government of Pakistan.

Editorial Weighs G-7 Stand on Kashmir Issue

BK2306043095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "G-7 Support on Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leaders of the world's top industrialised nations — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada (G-7) — and Russia have ended their summit meeting in Halifax, Canada. They held talks on a wide range of international problems and emphasised the importance of a new era of global cooperation. They supported measures to strengthen the United Nations which is being increasingly called upon the play a more active role in the post-Cold War period and pledged to build, through concrete reforms of the institutions, a more effective and efficient organisation to meet the challenges of the next half century. [sentence as published] It was pointed out that an active cooperation by Russia was essential on such trans-border issues as crime and nuclear smuggling as it happened to be a major source of weapons-grade nuclear materials that could be smuggled out to terrorist groups.

It is heartening to note that in the statement issued at the conclusion of the G-7 summit concern was expressed over the situation in Occupied Kashmir which could lead to a conflict. Calling for lowering of tension and adopting confidence-building measures in the subcontinent to strengthen the framework of global security, the statement urged "India and Pakistan to support international arms control norms, accede to the NPT and refrain from taking further steps towards ballistic missiles development or any other measures that might precipitate a regional arms race." While the G-7 summit acknowledged that the Kashmir conflict is a threat to regional and international peace and stability it made no mention of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people which is essential to a settlement of the conflict. This amounts to bypassing the issue — rather turning a blind eye to it. Moreover, where was the need of asking Pakistan to accede to the NPT when Islamabad has repeatedly expressed its willingness to sign the treaty, provided India does so simultaneously. And then Pakistan cannot be bracketed with India on the question of deployment of ballistic missiles. The international community knows that India has developed both a long-range (Agni) and a short-range (Prithvi) missile while Pakistanis pursuing no such programme. It is India's intention which are aggressive and pose a threat to regional and world peace and could well lead to an arms race in the region. [sentence as published] Every country is concerned about its own safety and integrity and has a right to adopt measures to defend itself. Pakistan stands for peace in the region, provided India softens its belligerent stance. The United States, the sole superpower today, has consistently accepted that Kashmir is a disputed territory and has urged settlement of the issue through a dialogue. Washington should take the lead and play a mediatory role to bring about a final settlement of the dispute. Unless India stops its brutalities in Kashmir and agrees to sit across the table for a meaningful dialogue, there can be no lessening of tension in the region.

Article Alleges Government Targeting of MQM

95AS0395A Lahore ZINDAGI in Urdu 27 Apr 95 pp 28-29

[Article by Hamid Walid Thakur: "Quaid's City—the Color of Blood; Battles Within MQM or...?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The two battling factions of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] are progressively widening the scope of accusations against each other. This [mutual accusation] was of a minor nature but now each side is more openly pointing fingers at the secret forces supporting the other side. A closer scrutiny of the statements being issued by the two sides shows that according to the MQM Altaf group, the Haqiqi MQM faction is supported by the army and their activities are carried out under the army's patronage. (The Altaf group has been making these accusations since the army operation undertaken in Karachi and still continues to do so.) On the other side, the Haqiqi MQM group accuses the leadership of the Altaf group of enjoying U.S. support and of working directly for U.S. interests. Haqiqi MQM's accusation received further credibility by Altaf Hussain's statement from London on 11 March in which he offered his "cooperation" to the U.S. government in seeking out the assassins of the two U.S. Consulate employees.

The most important development in regard to the Altaf group was the recent arrest in Karachi's Pak Colony of terrorist Javed Qureishi known as Captain who stated that the bloody activities carried on in Karachi were ordered by Altaf group's three assembly members. Javed Qureishi's statement has again intensified the verbal attacks of the two groups on each other. The central committee of Haqiqi MQM claimed that Javed Qureshi's statement revealed the true identity of the individuals who were responsible for destroying the peace of the city and that instead of arresting the real terrorists, the administration was bent on crushing the Haqiqi MQM. Haqiqi MQM also demanded in its statement that immediate action should be taken against individuals in the government, the administration and the police who were aiding the terrorists. On the other hand, the spokesman for Altaf MQM, commenting on Sindh Department of Information's statement which was broadcast over radio and television and published in the press, said that the government bulletin rregarding the arrest and investigation of Mohammad Javed Qureshi falsely accused and implicated MQM leaders, workers and elected representatives of the people in fabricated incidents and that by this action, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] had proved its moral and political bankruptcy. [MQM Alleges that] Javed Qureshi was an innocent employee of MQM who had not been seen since 19 March, 1995, and that on 6 April, the government had announced his arrest and fabricated a story about him in order to sully the reputation of MQM; that for eighteen days, employees of government agencies had kept Qureshi under illegal arrest and by the constant use of violence, had forced him to make a statement. MQM Altaf group spokesman further said that if the reprehensible attempts of the government and its agencies to end MQM's constitutional status were not ended, patriotic Mohajirs could lose patience and the government and its agencies would be responsible for the consequences.

In all this drama, one fact is obvious, namely, that both MQM groups have complaints against the PPP. Haqiqi MQM claims that conditions were being made unbearable for its employees and sympathizers; that arrests were being made without rhyme or reason and that though the government was fully aware of the facts, it was blindly using provincial violence against MQM employees with the sole purpose of pleasing the U.S. and was trying to prevent MQM from resisting forces inimical to Islam and the country. MQM's central committee appealed to the president of Pakistan and the Army Chief of Staff to put an immediate end to the operation in progress against Haqiqi MQM and to refrain from inflicting such harsh punishment on the Mohajirs for their love and loyalty to Pakistan as to drive the Mohajirs to take extreme action. Meanwhile, MQM Altaf group's Liason Committee has appealed to President Leghari and Chief of Army Staff Abdul Waheed to pay attention to the terrorizing and murder of MQM workers and sympathizers by terrorists backed by the government and to have these plundering and murdering elements arrested. The Committee maintained in its statement that the racist government of the PPP had launched a new operation to carry out its abominable objective; crushing the Mohajirs and their sole representative party, MQM; that on the orders of the government, administrative employees raided the homes of innocent MQM workers and sympathizers and subjected them to inhumane torture in government torture cells. The MQM spokesman referred to the recent incident of savage terrorism in Kaurangi and Malair areas where four MQM youths were lined up and shot without mercy; he pointed out that in Landhi, Qismatullah the brother of an MQM worker named Inayatullah who was in hiding, was abducted and subjected to violence and a ransom of fifty thousand rupees was demanded of his family for his release. According to the spokesman, MQM sympathizers and their relatives were being made the targets of terrorism; cars and property were being set on fire yet government officials and the administration had ignored open terrorism and incidents during which peaceful Mohajir settlements were surrounded and innocent and unarmed young and old people were arrested; that this failure to take notice of such incidents proved that terrorists and their activities were protected by the government.

These are the criminal charges brought against the present government by the two opposing MQM groups. On the other hand, prime minister Benazir Bhutto has taken a severe stance and accused MQM of squandering one and a half billion rupees belonging to municipal departments on the purchase of mobile phones and automobiles for their employees. In an interview with the respected [English-language bi-weekly] publication NEWSWEEK, the prime minister said that the federal government could not hand over Karachi again to elements who had ruined the city's law and order, raided the city budget and brought the city to the brink of ruin. Answering a question regarding the holding of municipal elections, the prime minister said that municipal elections would be held in two or three years because her government wanted to proceed on a solid basis for improving the condition of Karachi. (The prime minister's stand on municipal elections has created a great deal of anxiety in Karachi's political circles. Answering a question regarding MQM, the prime minister said that after MQM's success in the 1987 elections, terrorism had increased so much that it had become a permanent problem in Karachi. But political circles are concerned about the measures taken by the government for the so-called improvement of the situation notable among which are the following: the formation of new districts; topsy turvey changes in the district courts; the appointment of party workers to important posts without regard to merit; the transfer of Dawood Engineering College to Tahtah; the transfer of city employees to remote locations in Sindh; the appointment of an administrator favored by the government to Karachi's Municipal Committee and the total failure of the city administration. Political circles are saying openly that the government did not have any serious intention of solving the Karachi problem and wanted only to strengthen its vote bank.

Meanwhile, Altaf Hussain has not demonstrated any flexibility in his stand regarding participation in national politics or his attitude towards Haqiqi MQM. Instead, he has warned the government to forget its obsession with chopping up MQM and to end its patronage of terrorists; that MQM had no factions; any factions that existed were those of terrorists and that the day the government and its agencies ordered the terrorists to end their activity, peace would be restored in Karachi.

At the same time, [Altaf] MQM senator Ishtiaq Azhar has expressed his willingness to participate in the round table conference on Karachi proposed by senior politician Nawab Zadah Nasrullah Khan on the condition that a non-representative organization such as Haqiqi [MQM] and its factions would not be invited to the conference. [passages omitted]

Article Views 'Islamic Order' as Human Destiny

95AS0392C Karachi JANG in Urdu 4 May 95 p 3

[Article by Qazi Hussain Ahmad, leader of Jamaat-I-Islami: "The Road to Salvation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Popular Arab Islamic Conference, Sudan's leader Dr. Hasan Tarabi gave a luncheon party in a decorated boat in the Nile River to which a large number of journalists from the U.S., France, Britain, Sweden and other countries as well as other individuals were invited. I was there, surrounded by journalists who asked questions about the world of Islam, Islamic movements and the conference being held in Sudan. I answered them that the conference was being held to explain the true objectives of Islamic movements, to present Muslim issues to the world, to express the Muslim stand on various world issues and to convey this information to the people of the world. I also said that this was an opportunity for Western journalists to see Islamic movements in their true light and to present them in the same manner to the world. I said that Muslims wished to live in harmony with other people and offered Islam as the solution to the material and spiritual problems of the world. Muslims had never acted aggressively toward non-Muslims in any part of the world whereas Muslims were the target of cruelty and violence in Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, Chechnya, Tajikistan, Burma and other countries. Sanctions had been levied on several Muslim countries without any justification; in Algeria, an authoritarian government was being supported against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people; negative propaganda was being directed at the Muslims of Pakistan and Afghanistan. I said that this conference was not called in order to carry on secret consultations but was being held in the presence of the world media in order that they might understand the position taken by Muslims all over the world. A Black U.S. journalist asked me whether I was sure that my ideas would be presented in the manner I was presenting them. I replied that past experience showed that none of our positive aspects ever appeared in the Western press; the effort was always to find something negative and give it great prominence; if they could not find anything negative then it was not considered newsworthy, nevertheless it was our duty and our aim to repeat the truth loudly because we were convinced that lies would be exposed one day. There would come a time when people would know the whole truth and they would realize who was the oppressor and who the oppressed. (The manner in which this conference was later depicted in the West confirmed my past experience and showed that the U.S. journalist's doubts were justified). French television broadcast a single item regarding the conference to the effect that the conference had failed to make any positive suggestions and that worn-out ideas were presented in the conference.

Benazir Bhutto's recent visit to the U.S. showed clearly that no matter how low Muslim secular and liberal leaders prostrate themselves before the U.S., no matter how hard they try to adopt Western attitudes and, in order to please the West, how much they indulge in propaganda against Islamic movements in their own countries, these leaders will nevertheless fail to endear themselves to the U.S. and will not reduce its hatred and prejudice regarding Islam and the Islamic nation [as published].

At any rate, Benazir Bhutto's long time desire to have her picture appear on the cover of TIME magazine was fulfilled (the late Bhutto also had hoped for the same thing) and Benazir was depicted as the liberal heroine of the Western countries but the article also spewed poisonous propaganda against Pakistan which was portrayed as a country in total disorder and dissension where administration was an impossibility. Pakistan was placed 132nd out of 175 countries from the point of view of backwardness and poverty where only ten percent of the men and five percent of the women could write their own names; where men were addicted to heroin and the kalashnikov culture predominated; where Islamic fundamentalism raged; where the women were oppressed and linguistic, provincial and sectarian prejudices were intense. TIME magazine depicted Pakistan as a country unsuitable for investment. Thus, Benazir Bhutto's visit to the U.S. provided the Western press with the opportunity to spread deadly propaganda against Pakistan and humiliate it all over the world. Preparations for Benazir's visit to the U.S. were made far ahead of time and, in addition to the large number of individuals who accompanied her, an advance party was also sent to the U.S. But what was the result? The rulers of this country who are ignorant of even the concept of national dignity are responsible for our country's ignominy and humiliation. They travel as VIPs but are entirely ingnorant of the wretched conditions which the ordinary citizens have to face. These rulers are out of contact with the people who are burdened with poverty and the high cost of living and they remain ignorant of the real problems facing the nation. At present, the entire country has become divided into two classes, the oppressed and the oppressors. When a Pakistani worker travels outside the country with his green Pakistani passport, he is pushed around and humiliated at every airport. Is it the destiny of the people of Pakistani to remain backward? Is our lack of education, ignorance, disease and poverty due to the lack of resources? Undoubtedly, there is not a lack of resources; Pakistan is rich not only in agricultural and mineral resources but possesses experts in all fields of endeavour. If these individuals are given better opportunities for work, they can compete successfully with any nation. The real problem is that there is no honest, sincere and capable political leadership. The country needs leaders who can fulfill the modern demands in the fields of science and technology and, at the same time, be God-fearing and not turn traitor to the nation's trust.

Before setting out on her visit to the U.S., Benazir Bhutto held a briefing for foreign journalists in Islamabad and told them that just as in the past, Pakistan was the frontline country against communism, today it was on the frontline against Islamic fundamentalism and therefore the U.S. should help Pakistan in its confrontation with fundamentalism. Benazir's stand showed the country what her future plan of action would be.

She should understand that by becoming the servant of the U.S. in confronting Islamic movements she will not be able to strengthen her government nor attract U.S. investment to Pakistan. The U.S. and Zionism have drawn the map of a world led by them and there is no place in this map for any Muslim country. Our leaders can debase themselves and try their best to become liberal and secular; they will never succeed in gaining any honorable status. It is the permanent plan of imperialist powers to create provincial, linguistic and religious differences among the Muslims and keep them disunmited. These powers want to establish Indian hegemony in South Asia and they are pressuring Pakistan to forget its nuclear program and Kashmir, to break off its ties with the Muslim world, to regard itself as a regional country of South Asia, accept India as its overlord and not insist on its Islamic identity. The Muslims of Morrocco, Bosnia, Chechnya, Indonesia, Yemen and Egypt have complete faith that God has given them the ability of guiding humanity. They know that the Quran embodies the eternal message for the welfare of humanity and offers equal opportunity to all people, irrespective of color, race and nationality. The Muslims of these countries know that they have the answer which offers justice to all people. Backwardness and indignity are not the destiny of Muslims because, up to three hundred years ago, Muslims were the leaders of the world and two hundred years ago, they had besieged Vienna and if they had captured that city, the whole of Europe would have fallen under their influence. Even at the time when Muslims were leaders, the majority of them were olive-skinned and black whereas Europeans were white. The reason for the backwardness of Muslims is their lack of attention to science, morality, discipline and planning and the relinquishing of the enlightened teaching of the Quran. If the Muslims should again learn the lessons of justice, sincerety and courage and make it a habit to move forward in every endeavor of life with the spirit of jihad, they can regain world leadership. The world needs an order which satisfies the demands of justice. The new generation of Muslims is confident that it possesses this best of all systems. This generation cannot be accused of being worn-out and backward because its leaders are well-versed in modern science and technology and are at the same time of good character and morals; they have received training in the most modern U.S. and European [educational] institutions and are well acquainted with the good and bad points of Western nations. This new generation of Muslims can see for itself the signs of Western decline. Western civilization, which has built its nest on a weak limb, is at the end of its natural life. The stage is set for the leadership of an Islamic order. The dust is flying and the world waits to see the rider emerge.

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